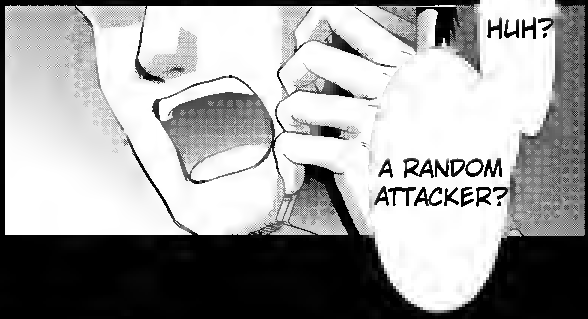
Genji the Death's Friend

– Chapter Twenty-One – Cold-blooded Rondo ②



Translation by Adam Hirsch
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
YKS Services, Inc. / SKY Japan Inc.

TWITTER ☆: @agitadashi
STORY BY AMAGI SEIMARU
ART BY MINAMI OZAKI

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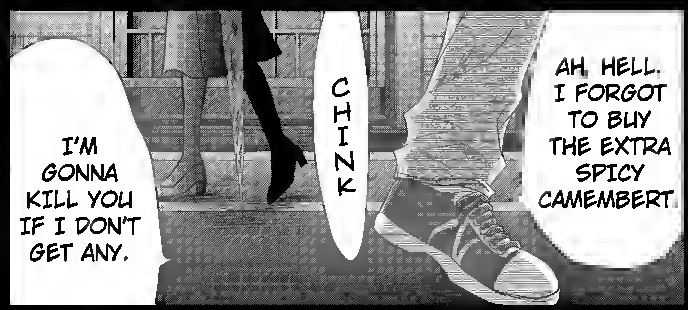
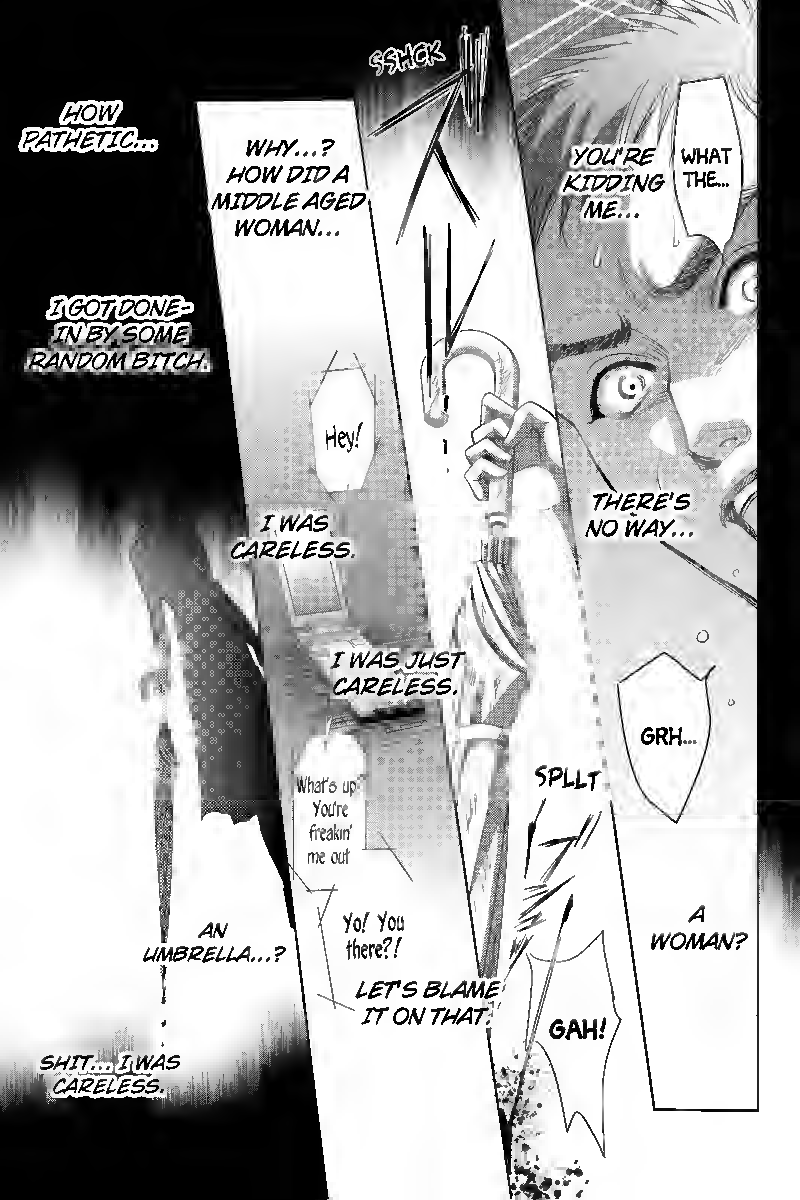
GA HA HA HA
WHEN'D YOU BECOME SUCH A PAMPERED PRINCE?
WHAT? THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T COME DRINKIN' WITH ME?
CLINK
CLINK
I GOT IT. I GOT IT. HAVE FUN QUIVERING IN FEAR AT HOME.


AH, HELL. I FORGOT TO BUY THE EXTRA SPICY CAMEMBERT.
CHINK
I'M GONNA KILL YOU IF I DON'T GET ANY.

SHWIP
!

AH...
WHA–
...HUH?


SSHCK
HOW PATHETIC...
WHY...? HOW DID A MIDDLE AGED WOMAN...
YOU'RE KIDDING ME...
WHAT THE...
I GOT DONE-IN BY SOME RANDOM BITCH.
Hey!
THERE'S NO WAY...
I WAS CARELESS.
I WAS JUST CARELESS.
GRH...
What's up? You're freakin' me out
SPLLT
Yo! You there?!
AN UMBRELLA...?
A WOMAN?
LET'S BLAME IT ON THAT!
GAH!
SHIT... I WAS CARELESS.

BWOOOOHHH
I'M GONNA REMEMBER YOUR FACE, LADY...
DAMN IT...
JUST YOU...WAIT...

FSHH
radico.jp
CLICK
FLAP
HOW'S EVERYONE DOING ON THIS LAZY, RAINY DAY?
THE OTHER DAY I WATCHED TV ON AN OLD CRT SET FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FOREVER.
IT MADE ME FEEL REALLY NOSTALGIC.

YOU KNOW HOW THE SCREEN OF A CRT TV BULGES OUT A BIT?

I REMEMBER HOW WHEN I WAS LITTLE I GOT SCARED WHEN ADULTS TOLD ME "THERE ARE PEOPLE INSIDE."

OH YEAH...

I WAS TOLD THE SAME THING.

"THE SCREEN BULGES BECAUSE IT'S CRAMPED IN THERE AND THEY WANT TO GET OUT." TOO SPOOKY.

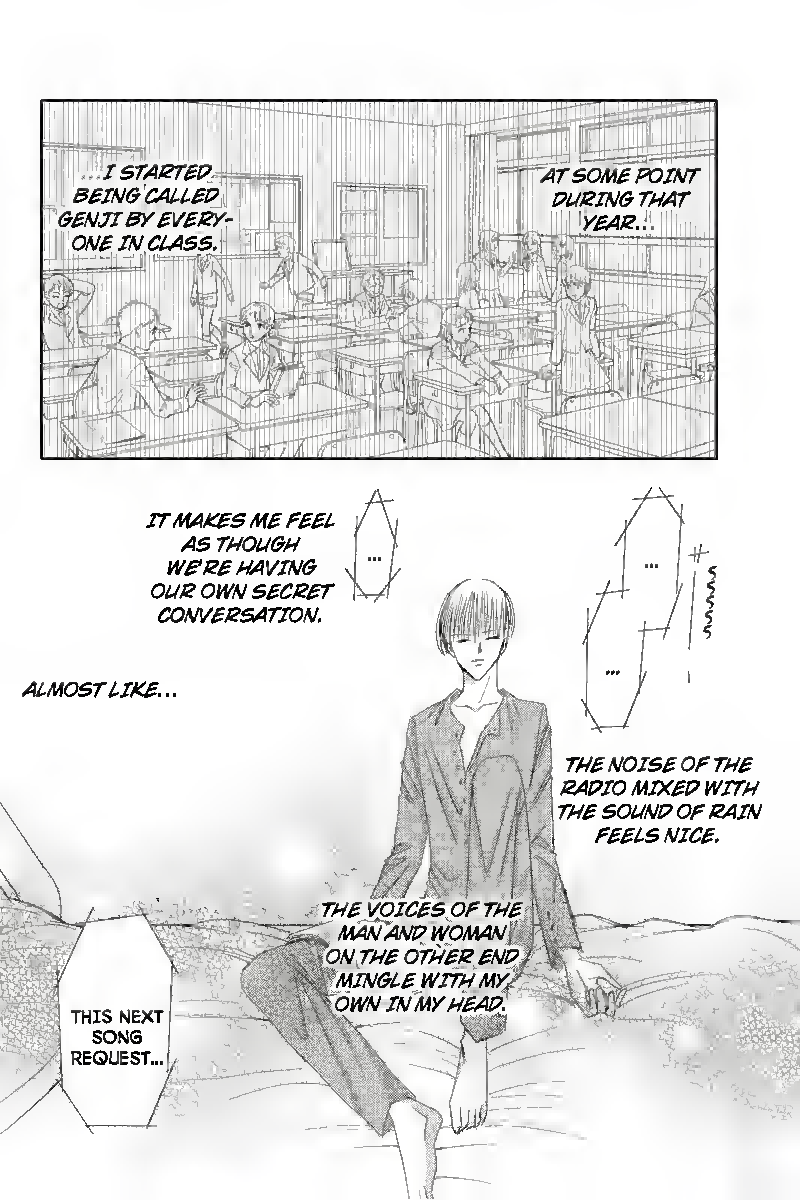
I STILL REMEMBER THOSE DAYS PRETTY CLEARLY.

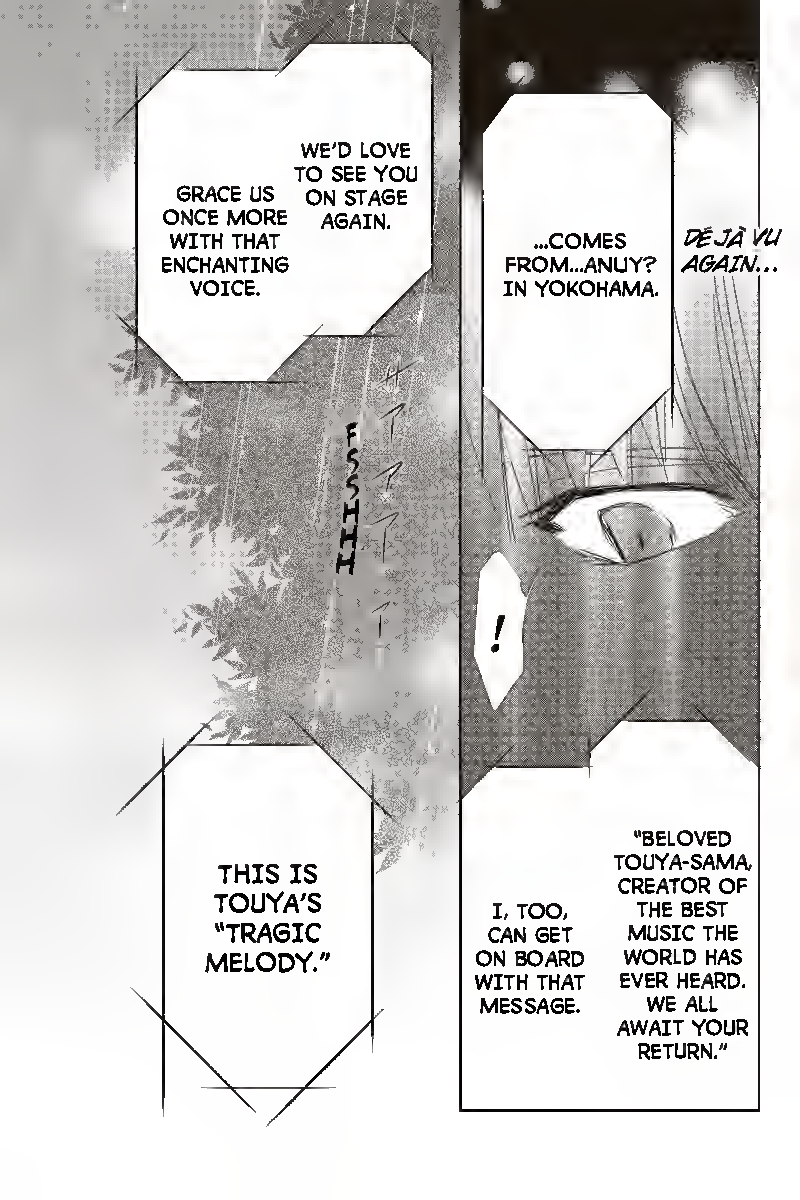
BACK WHEN I WOULD BELIEVE THAT NONSENSE.

YEAH...

MY MEMORY STARTS TO GET FUZZY AROUND WHEN I WAS IN FIFTH GRADE.

ABOUT THE TIME I WAS GOING HOME WITH YUNA.


...I STARTED BEING CALLED GENJI BY EVERYONE IN CLASS.
AT SOME POINT DURING THAT YEAR...
IT MAKES ME FEEL AS THOUGH WE'RE HAVING OUR OWN SECRET CONVERSATION.
...
...
...
ALMOST LIKE...
THE NOISE OF THE RADIO MIXED WITH THE SOUND OF RAIN FEELS NICE.
THE VOICES OF THE MAN AND WOMAN ON THE OTHER END MINGLE WITH MY OWN IN MY HEAD.
THIS NEXT SONG REQUEST...


GRACE US ONCE MORE WITH THAT ENCHANTING VOICE.
WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU ON STAGE AGAIN.
FSSHH
THIS IS TOUYA'S "TRAGIC MELODY."
...COMES FROM...ANUY? IN YOKOHAMA.
DÉJÀ VU AGAIN...
!
I, TOO, CAN GET ON BOARD WITH THAT MESSAGE.
"BELOVED TOUYA-SAMA, CREATOR OF THE BEST MUSIC THE WORLD HAS EVER HEARD. WE ALL AWAIT YOUR RETURN."

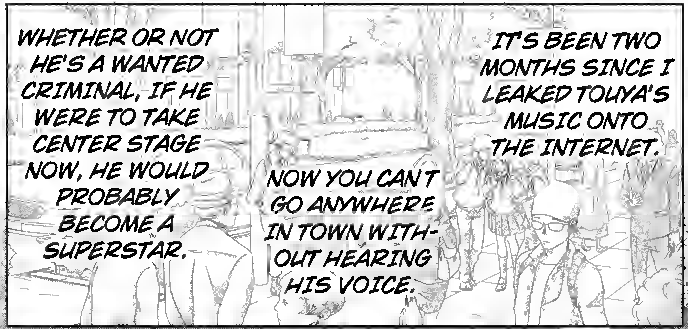
AND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WARRING SOUNDS...
IMPRESSIVE GUITAR INTRO...
THE SWEET OVERDRIVE OF THE ELECTRIC GUITAR LAYERS ONTO ITSELF...
...APPEARING OUT OF NOWHERE, AS IF CALMLY WANDERING THE BATTLEFIELD,
...CREATING A HARMONY LIKE AN ORCHESTRA.
THE BASS GRADUALLY INCREASES WITH THE GROWL OF A BEAST AND COILS TOGETHER WITH THE GUITAR LIKE A SERPENT.
TOLIYA.
THE GENTLE CYMBALS, STIRRING LIKE THE RUSTLING OF FOREST LEAVES ALL AT ONCE ATTACK WITH AN EXPLOSION OF SOUND.

TOLIYA, ON THE OTHER HAND...

...IS A GENIUS.

I USED TO PLAY PIANO, AND I HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE BEING IN A BAND.

I LIKE TO THINK I KNOW A THING OR TWO WHEN IT COMES TO MUSIC, BUT...



AND YET NO ONE KNOWS COLD AND RUTHLESS...

HEH

I'M PRETTY MESSED UP, TOO.

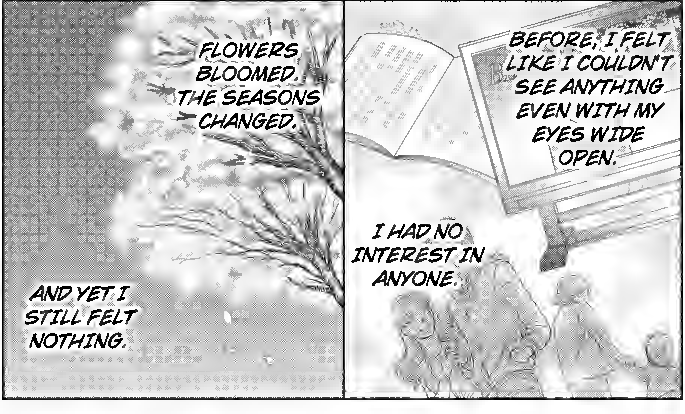
AM I PRAISING HIM, OR CONDEMNING HIM?

...HOW DANGEROUS HE REALLY IS.

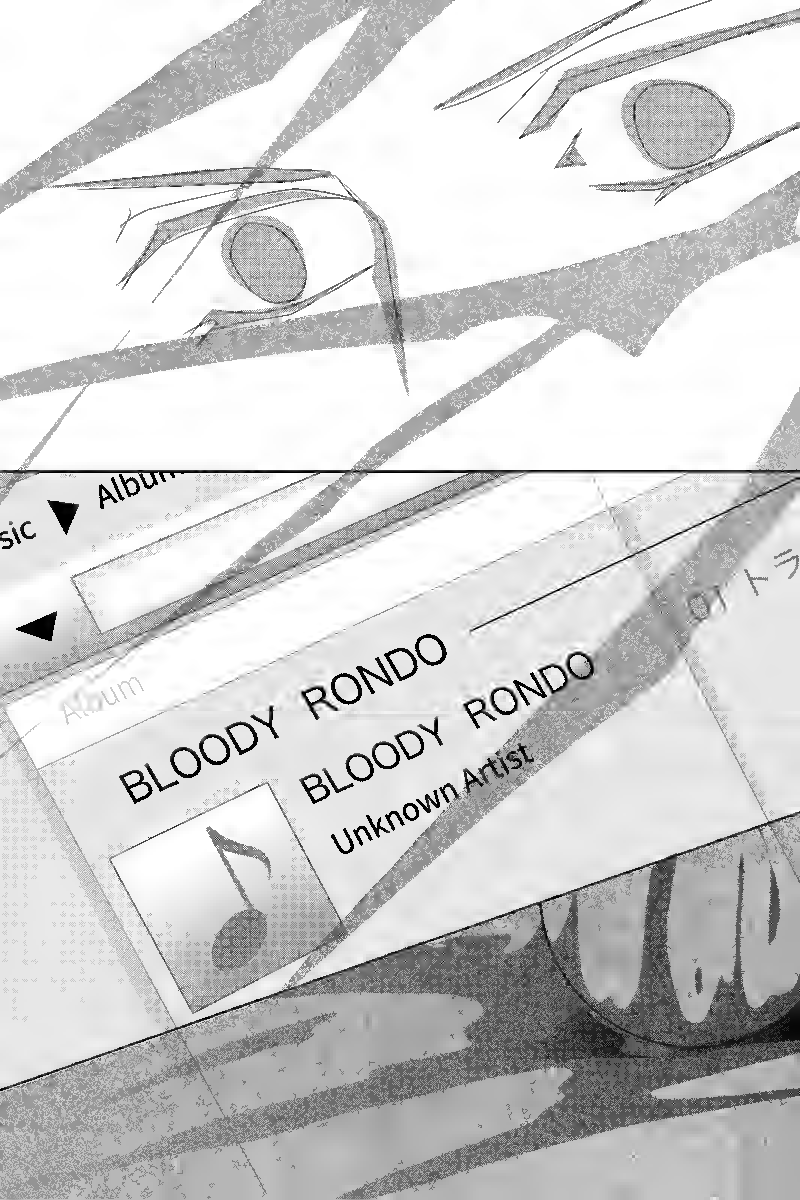
EVER SINCE MEETING TOUYA...

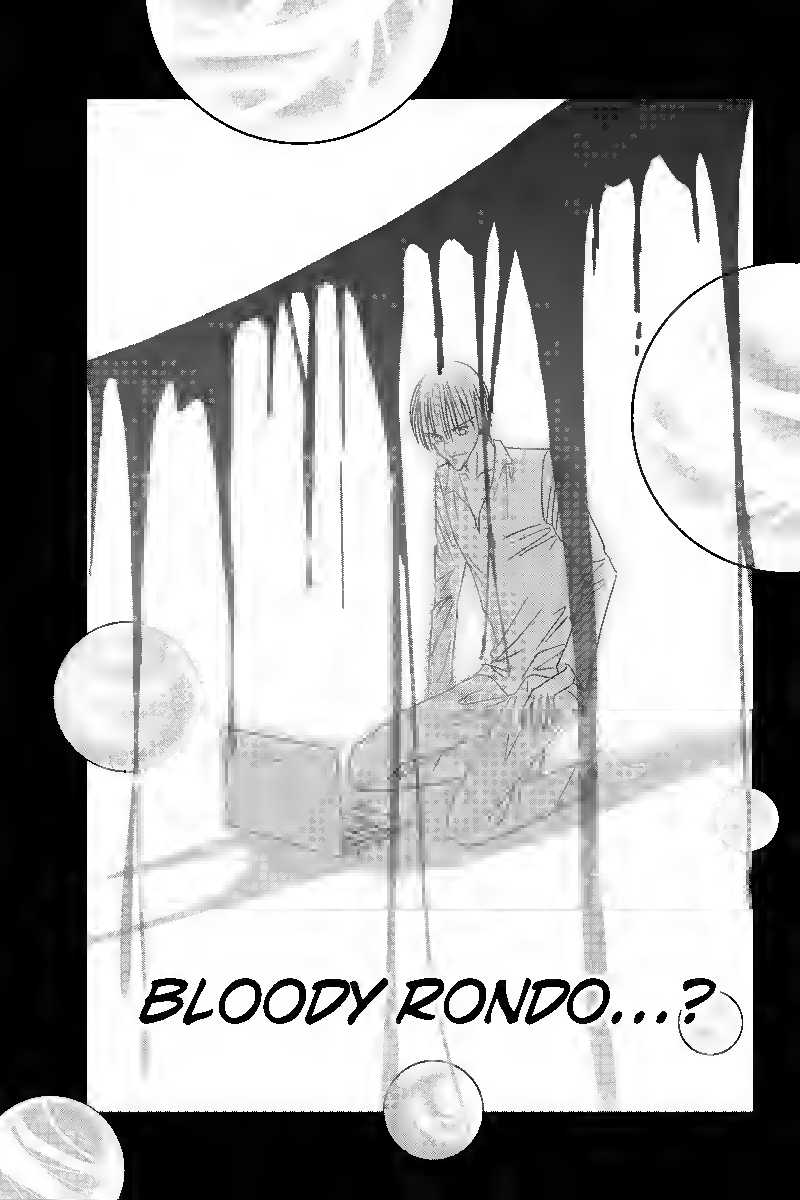
...SOMETHING INSIDE OF ME HAS STARTED TO MOVE.

NO... EVER SINCE MEETING THE FAMILIAR VOICE I HEAR WITHIN TOUYA'S MUSIC...



Phone: Touya
BRRRRR
...SOME KIND OF CURSE?
COULD THIS ALSO BE...
CLACK
CLACK
http://www
CLACK
SOMETIMES I THINK THIS GUY CAN READ MY MIND.
CLICK
Windows Medias Player
Library
Stream
IT'S JUST A URL... A NEW SONG?


sic
Album
Album
BLOODY RONDO
BLOODY RONDO
Unknown Artist


BLOODY RONDO...?

- Chapter Twenty-Two - Cold-blooded Rondo ③

THE SONG TOUYA SENT ME...

"BLOODY RONDO."

THE MOMENT I SAW THAT TITLE, I FELT THE MARBLES OF MY CURSED MEMORY SPILL FROM MY HEAD ONCE AGAIN.

Genji the Death's Friend

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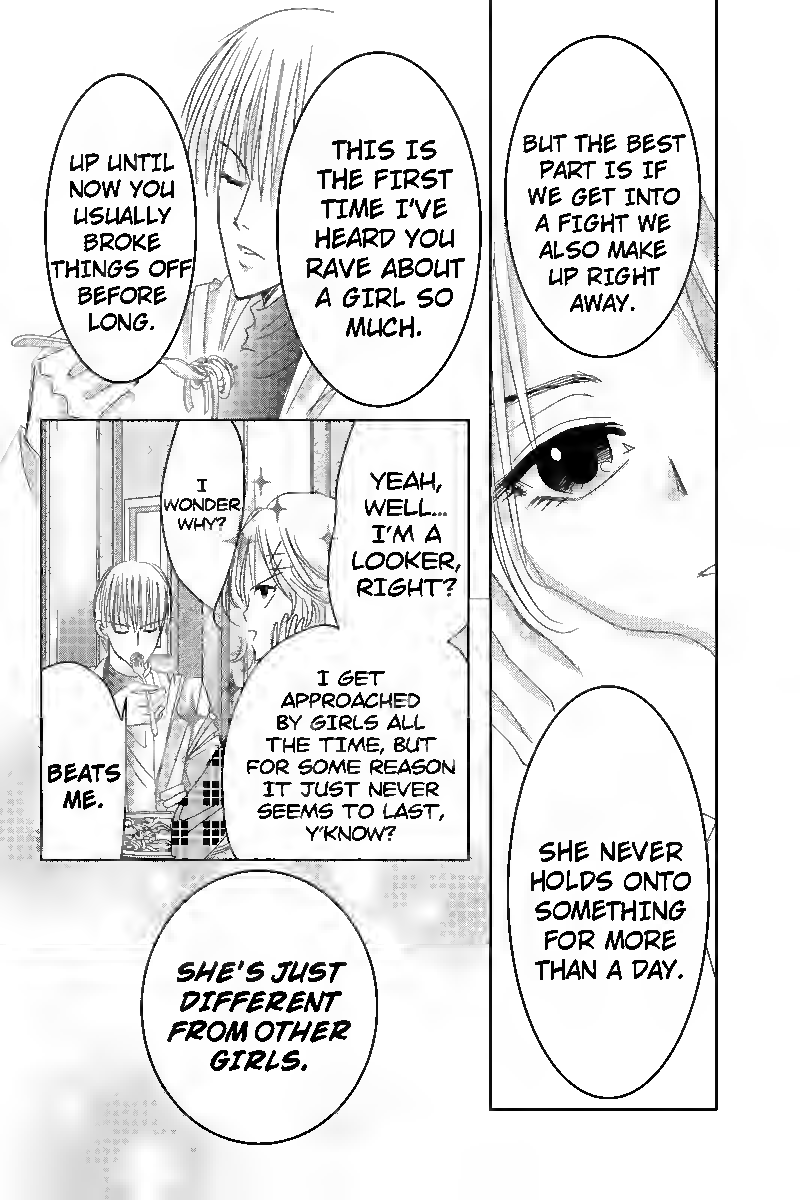
HEY, GENJI-SENPAI...
I GOT A NEW GIRL-FRIEND.
OH, YEAH?
GOOD FOR YOU.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER LIKED SOME-ONE THIS MUCH.
I NEVER WANNA BE APART FROM HER, Y'KNOW?
SHE'S NICE, AND WE'RE INTO THE SAME STUFF.
IT'S FUN JUST BEING WITH HER.
THE SEX IS PRETTY GREAT TOO.
I CAN'T GET ENOUGH.
GLAD TO HEAR IT.


UP UNTIL NOW YOU USUALLY BROKE THINGS OFF BEFORE LONG.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD YOU RAVE ABOUT A GIRL SO MUCH.
BUT THE BEST PART IS IF WE GET INTO A FIGHT WE ALSO MAKE UP RIGHT AWAY.
I WONDER WHY?
YEAH, WELL... I'M A LOOKER, RIGHT?
BEATS ME.
I GET APPROACHED BY GIRLS ALL THE TIME, BUT FOR SOME REASON IT JUST NEVER SEEMS TO LAST, Y'KNOW?
SHE'S JUST DIFFERENT FROM OTHER GIRLS.
SHE NEVER HOLDS ONTO SOMETHING FOR MORE THAN A DAY.

HEAD-OVER-HEELS, HUH?

HMM...

WELL... JUN LOOKS HAPPY, AT LEAST.

HOW DO YOU LIKE THE PASTA HERE, GENJI-SENPAI? GOOD, HUH?

IT'S MY TREAT, AS PROMISED.

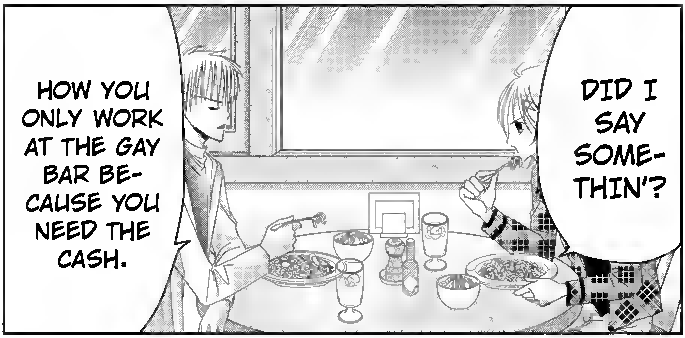
THIS PLACE IS PRETTY PRICEY, THOUGH. YOU SURE IT'S OKAY?

YOU ALWAYS WHINE ABOUT BEING BROKE.

IT'S COOL.

I SHOULD BE COVERED FOR A WHILE. I HAVE THE INSURANCE MONEY FROM WHEN MY DAD DIED TOO.

THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU WERE SAYING BEFORE...



The pay's good, too.

AHH. I JUST CAN'T SIT AROUND AND DO NOTHING ALL DAY OR I'D START TO GO CRAZY.

I GUESS I TAKE AFTER DAD.

THEY SAY I'M JUST LIKE HIM WHEN HE WAS YOUNG.

...

CLINK
JUN...
HAHA
POPS EVEN WORKED AT A GAY BAR UNTIL HE WAS ABOUT TWENTY, TOO.
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? TWO GENERATIONS STRONG.
IT'S NOT NORMAL FOR YOU TO TAKE ME OUT TO LUNCH LIKE THIS.
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?
ACTUALLY, I WAS HOPING TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MY GIRLFRIEND TODAY, SENPAI.
EH? AHH...

ME?
YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THAT?
GAHH! I KNOW!
THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO TALK!
"WHY DO YOU HANG OUT WITH PEOPLE WHEN YOU KNOW THEY'RE GOING TO YOU DIE?"
THAT WAS REALLY SHITTY FOR ME TO SAY. I KNOW YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
I'M REALLY SORRY!
SLAP
CLACK
NAH...
IT'S THE TRUTH, AFTER ALL.

SLAM
ガバッ
I GOT IT! RELAX! YOU'RE MAKING A SCENE.
FORGIVE ME, SENPAI! I WAS AT THE END OF MY ROPE THEN!
DAHHH! NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN! I'M SORRY!

DO YOU FORGIVE ME?
WILL YOU MEET MY GIRL-FRIEND?
SIGH. THERE'S NOTHING TO...
ALL RIGHT...

ぎゅー!!

HUG

THANK GOD!

I LOVE YOU, SENPAI!

WHOA! WHOA! WHOA!

SO? IS YOUR GIRL-FRIEND COMING HERE?

I can feel everyone staring...

SNICKER

HUH? OH. HERE'S NOT GOOD FOR HER.

NOT GOOD?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

EH?
WHERE?
WE ALWAYS MEET AT THE SAME SHOP AT A CERTAIN TIME.
"CÉZANNE" IN FRONT OF THE STATION.
THAT OLD CAFÉ BUILT LIKE HOW MANY DECADES AGO? OR WAS IT A COFFEE SHOP?
cafe
セザンヌ
I DON'T KNOW HOW THAT PLACE IS STILL IN BUSINESS.
THAT'S THE ONE. OH, CRAP.
I GOTTA GET GOING. SHE'LL GET WORRIED IF I'M LATE.
IN THIS AGE? THAT'S RARE.
SHE DOESN'T HAVE A CELL PHONE.

MEET US THERE IN FIFTEEN MINUTES, OKAY?
REMEMBER, CÉZANNE!
HOLD UP. WHAT'S HER NAME?
WHAT'S SHE LIKE? HOW OLD IS SHE?
HUH? WHY?
WELL IF I GO INTO IT ACTING LIKE TALK ABOUT HER ALL THE TIME,
THAT'S MORE NATURAL, DON'T YOU THINK?
AHH! GOOD THINKING, SENPAI!
I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU, THEN!
SO, WHAT'S HER NAME?

MARIA! LIKE THE VIRGIN MARY!
SHE SAYS SHE'S SIX-TEEN!

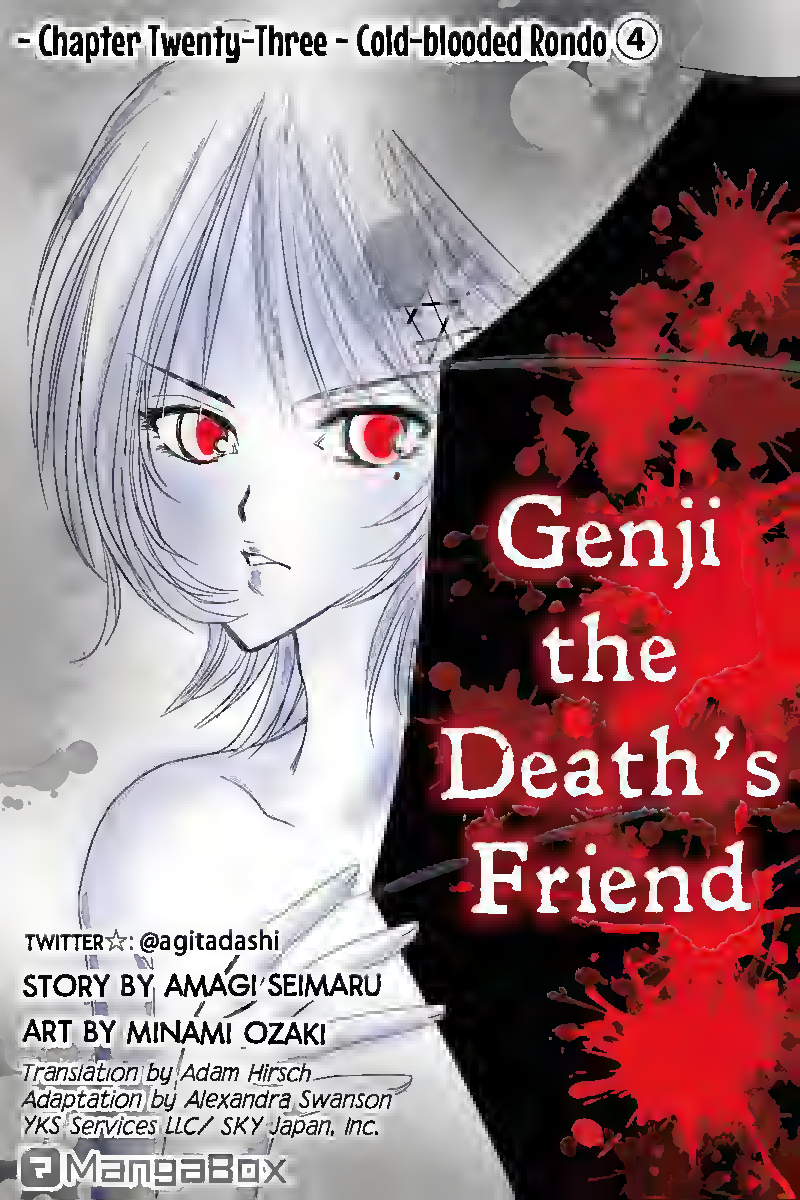
"MARIA."

KSSHHH
DID YOU KNOW?
SYNCHRON-ICITY...
GENJI...

"BLOODY RONDO."
"MARIA."
THE TRUTH REFLECTED IN THE MARBLE FELL WITH THAT.
THE SMALL, YET FOUL-TASTING SIN COMMITTED BY ME AND YUNA.
GENJI.
...IS DRAGGED OUT IN THE REPEATING RONDO'S MADDENING MERRIMENT.
...AND RESURRECTS

WITHOUT FAIL, IT NESTLES ITSELF BY MY SIDE.
ALONG WITH THE SOMBER PREMOTION OF DEATH....

- Chapter Twenty-Three - Cold-blooded Rondo ④



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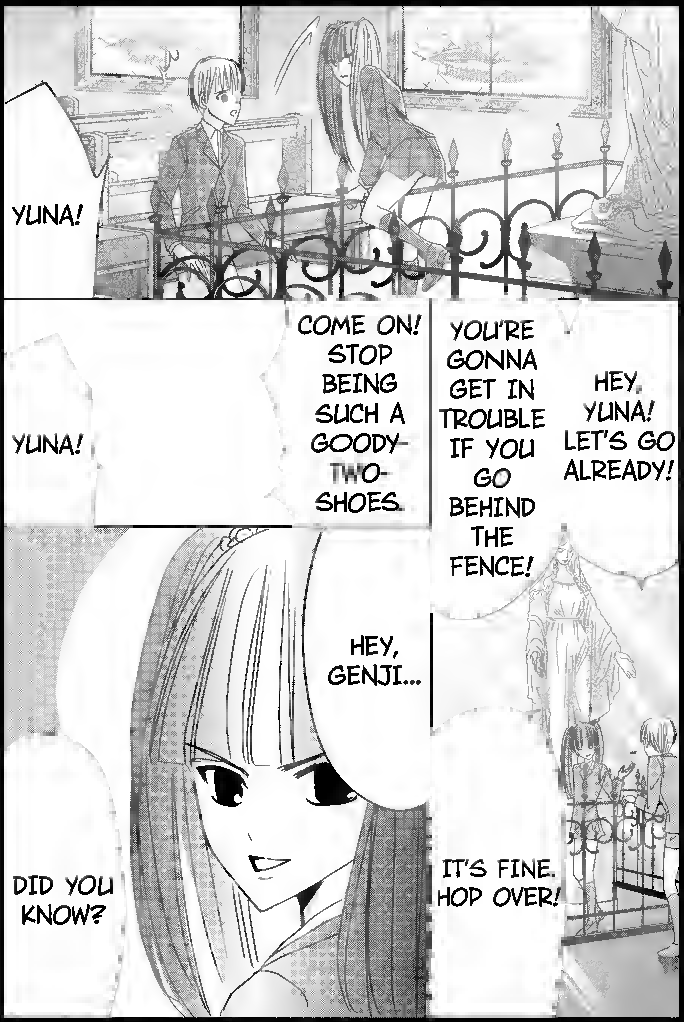
"THE MARY INCIDENT."
IT HAPPENED AT A SMALL CATHOLIC CHURCH ON THE WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL ONE DAY.
THE CHURCH HELD A MODEST CARNIVAL EVERY YEAR, COME SPRING.
THEY WOULD PLAY CHEERFUL MUSIC WHILE LOCAL CHILDREN DANCED IN COSTUME.

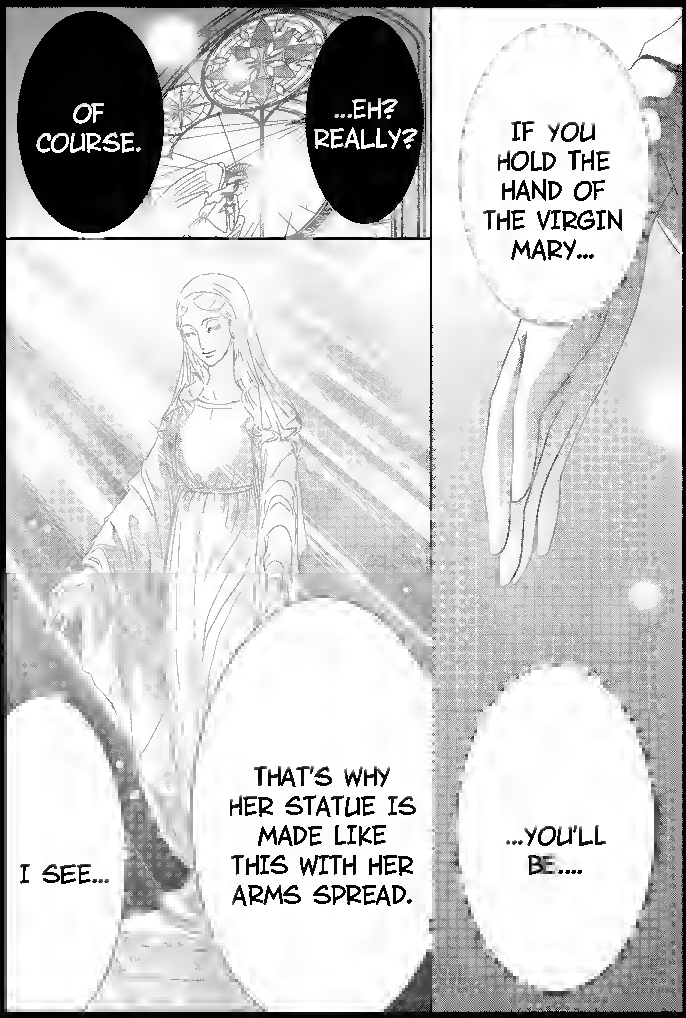
A FESTIVAL AT THE CHURCH?
YEAH!
A BUNCH OF KIDS GET TOGETHER TO DANCE AND EAT SWEETS.
HMM...
IT'S A LOT OF FUN!
OKAY. LET'S STOP BY ON THE WAY HOME.

CARNIVAL
IT WAS A PLEASANTLY WARM AND CHEERFUL DAY.
THE JAUNTY SOUND OF THE ORGAN AND VIOLIN MADE YOUR HEART FLUTTER.
HEY, YUNA.
WHAT DOES THAT SAY?
"CARNIVAL." IT'S A CHRISTIAN FESTIVAL.
YOU WERE TRYING TO SHOW OFF AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT?

EH?
LOOKS FUN...
LET'S GO TO THE CHURCH. THESE KIDS ARE LOUD.
I'M BORED.
YUNA!
BUT WE STILL HAVEN'T... YUNA!

WOW! IT'S BEAUTI-FUL...


YUNA!
YUNA!
COME ON! STOP BEING SUCH A GOODY-TWO-SHOES.
YOU'RE GONNA GET IN TROUBLE IF YOU GO BEHIND THE FENCE!
HEY, YUNA! LET'S GO ALREADY!
HEY, GENJI...
DID YOU KNOW?
IT'S FINE. HOP OVER!


OF COURSE.
...EH? REALLY?
IF YOU HOLD THE HAND OF THE VIRGIN MARY...
I SEE...
THAT'S WHY HER STATUE IS MADE LIKE THIS WITH HER ARMS SPREAD.
...YOU'LL BE....

どきん。
BADUMP
どキん。
BADUMP
どキん。
BADUMP
SOMEONE'S COMING!
SNATCH
GENJI!

KRRCH

AHH!
AH...
I...
STUPID GENJI!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! HURRY!

IN THE GARDEN OF THE CHURCH, THE SONG BEGAN TO REPEAT.
THE MASKED CHILDREN LOOKED TO ME LIKE FAMILIARS OF HEAVEN SENT TO PERSECUTE ME.
I BROKE SAINT MARY'S ARM!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DESTROYED THE IMAGE OF MARY, GENJI!
YOU'RE GOING TO BE CURSED FOR SURE!

I CAN NEVER GO BACK TO THE CHURCH...
THE PRIEST IS GOING TO LOOK FOR WHO DID IT!
YOU'RE GOING TO BURN AT THE STAKE, GENJI!
THE RONDO PERFORMED AT THE CARNIVAL...
...HAUNTED MY DREAMS ALONG WITH THE IMAGE OF TERRIFYING MASKS.
EVENTUALLY I CAME TO KNOW THERE WAS NEVER ANY MENTION ABOUT MARY'S HAND GRANTING HAPPINESS.
I COULDN'T SO MUCH AS SWALLOW FOOD.
THAT SHE MADE ME GRAB THE STATUES HAND KNOWING FULL WELL HOW FRAGILE IT HAD BECOME.
I WONDERED IF YUNA HAD DONE IT ON PURPOSE.

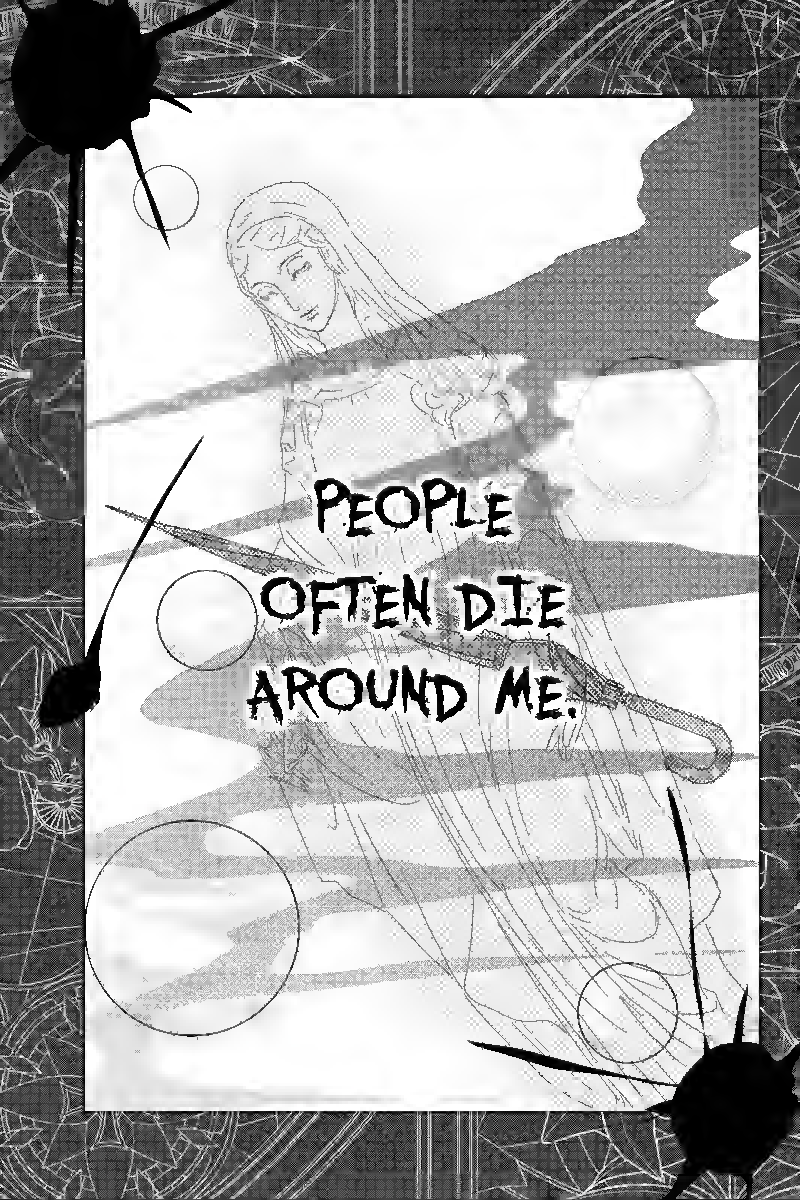
NOW, AFTER ALL THIS TIME,
BUT I NEVER SPOKE OF THAT TO YUNA.
I REMAINED SILENT, KEEPING MY DISTRUST OF HER LOCKED AWAY IN MY HEART.
THE FORGOTTEN PAIN IN MY CHEST RESURFACES.
EVENTUALLY I JUST FORGOT ABOUT IT ENTIRELY.

IF THE REASON FOR THAT...
cafe'
セザンヌ
NO...
...IS RELATED TO JUN AND HIS GIRLFRIEND, THEN...

JINGLE
チリリン
I'M SURE OF IT.
IT HAS TO BE.
AH!
WHETHER I LIKE IT...
...OR NOT.
GENJI-SENPAI! OVER HERE!

"HOLY MOTHER."
OH...
CLUNK
"SIXTEEN YEAR OLD GIRL."
GENJI-SAN...?
"MARIA."

SENPAI?!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
AHH...
SHUDDER
IT'S NO USE.
YEAH...
JUST A LITTLE DIZZY.


PEOPLE
OFTEN DIE
AROUND ME.

- Chapter Twenty-Four - Cold-blooded Rondo ⑤

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I'VE NEVER BEEN TO A CAFÉ BY MYSELF.

MY PARENTS FORBID IT.

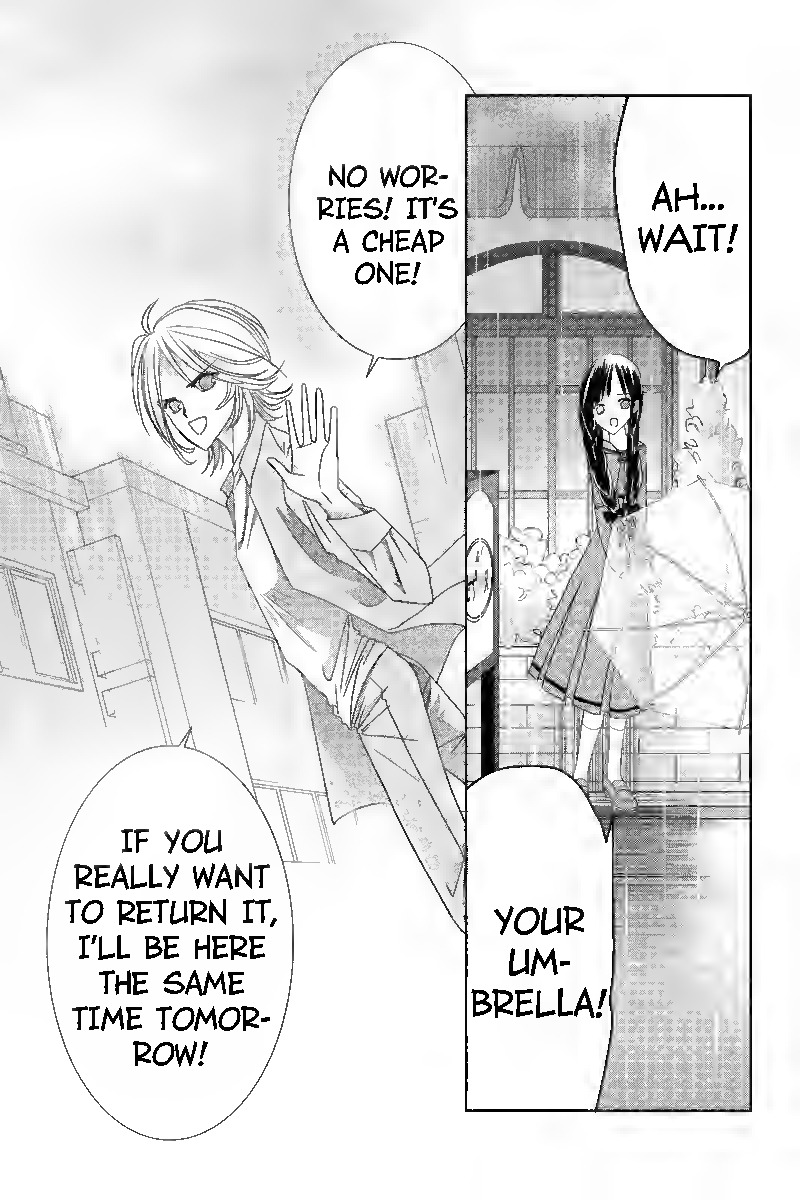
AHH. THAT UNIFORM IS FROM THE GIRL'S SCHOOL AROUND HERE, RIGHT?

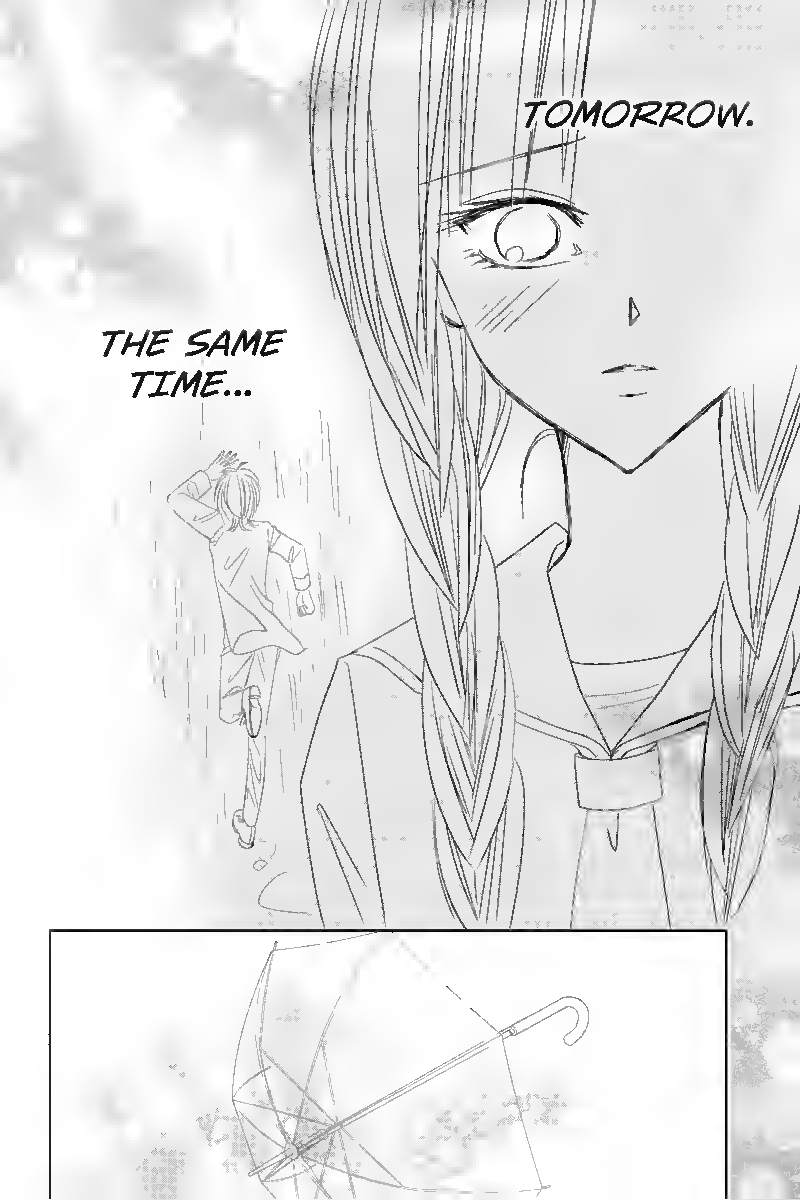
I SEE... A REAL UPTOWN GIRL.

AREN'T YOU GETTING WET, THOUGH?

HERE. TAKE THIS.

CAN'T HAVE A LADY CATCH COLD NOW, CAN WE?

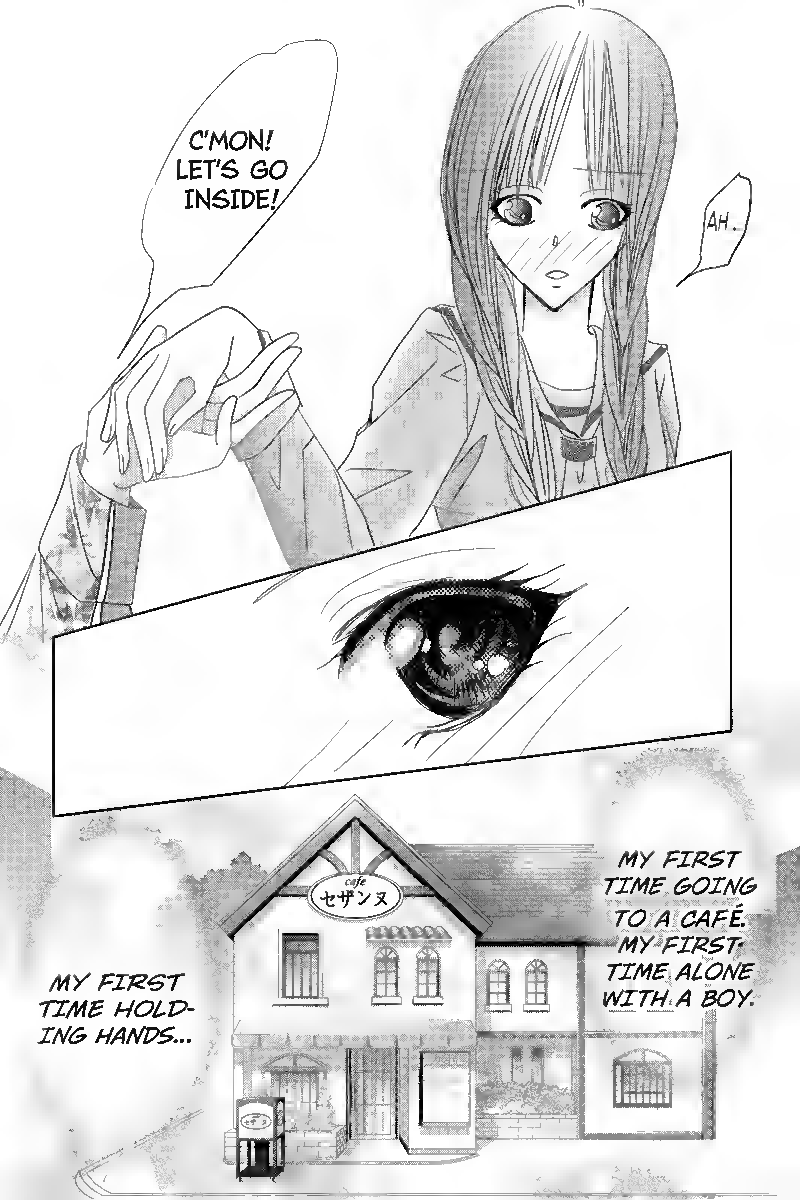

AH... WAIT!
NO WORRIES! IT'S A CHEAP ONE!
YOUR UMBRELLA!
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO RETURN IT, I'LL BE HERE THE SAME TIME TOMORROW!


TOMORROW.
THE SAME TIME...

Sign: Café Cézanne

JUMP
ぎくっ
NO WAY!
IT'S THE LITTLE LADY FROM YESTERDAY!
YOU REALLY CAME TO GIVE BACK THE UMBRELLA?
I PROMISED...
AW, MAN... THAT'S ADORABLE!
KYA!

LET ME BUY YOU COFFEE AS THANKS!
AH... MAYBE BLACK TEA WOULD SUIT A LADY BETTER?
UMM.
PLEASE STOP CALLING ME THAT.
MY NAME IS MARIA.
MARIA, HUH? IT SUITS YOU.
I'M JUN!


C'MON! LET'S GO INSIDE!
AH.
MY FIRST TIME GOING TO A CAFÉ. MY FIRST TIME ALONE WITH A BOY.
MY FIRST TIME HOLDING HANDS...
cafe
セザンヌ

POP
からっけつ
AW, CRAP!
I FORGOT... I'M TOTALLY SKINT FROM PAYING THE ELECTRIC BILL.
SKINT?
UMM...
I CAN PAY, IF YOU NEED ME TO.
BUHH. I GUESS I'M TAPPED UNTIL NEXT WEEK.
AH! DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! THIS PLACE WILL RUN A TAB FOR ME.
AND I GET LUNCH AND DINNER AT WORK, SO I'M FINE!
Whew...
MAN, THIS IS PRETTY UNCOOL TO SHOW A GIRL.

YOU WORK ALL DAY?

WELL, YEAH, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY RELATIVES, SEE.

And I don't go to school.

I GUESS I'M WHAT YOU'D CALL AN "URCHIN."

AREN'T YOU STILL SEVENTEEN, JUN-SAN?

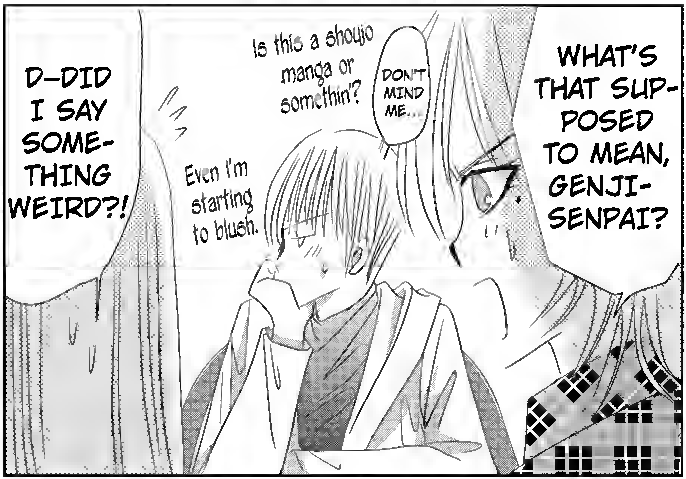
IT'S ALL RIGHT, THOUGH! I LIVE AN EASY LIFE. JUST A PENNILESS ONE.

HA HA HA

ALSO ... WON'T YOU DROP THE "SAN?"

NO NEED TO BE SO FORMAL.

FROM THE MOMENT WE MET...
PRINCE, HUH...?
...JUN-KUN HAS BEEN MY PRINCE.

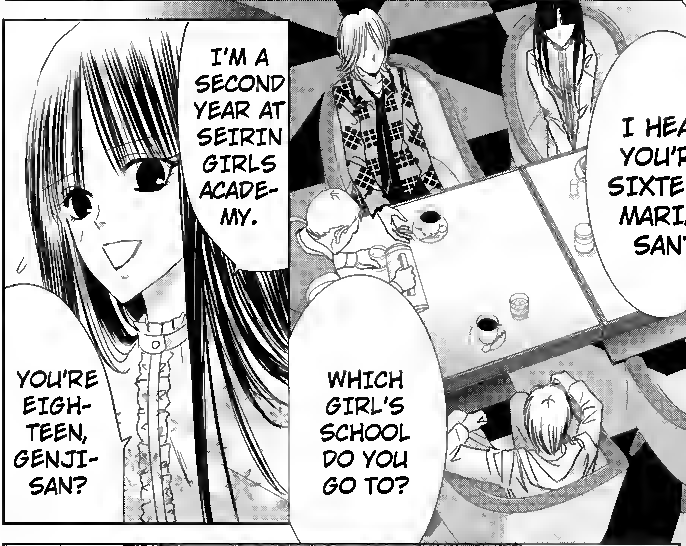

D-DID I SAY SOME-THING WEIRD?!
Is this a shoujo manga or somethin'?
DON'T MIND ME...
Even I'm starting to blush.
WHAT'S THAT SUP-POSED TO MEAN, GENJI-SENPAI?

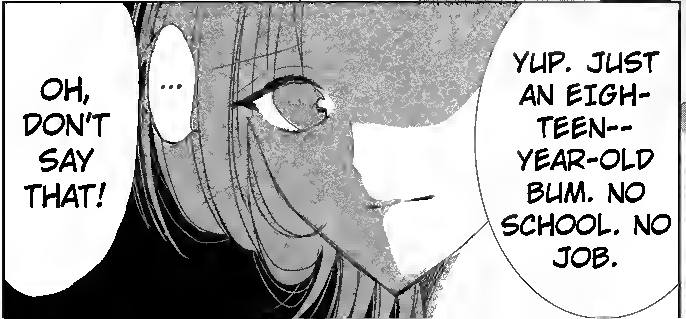
I SEE.

IT'S TRUE.
UNTIL I MET JUN-KUN, I FELT LIKE I WAS LIVING INSIDE A CAGE. HE'S OPENED UP MY WORLD.

GENJI-SAN, YOUR REAL NAME IS HIKARU, RIGHT?
JUN-KUN TOLD ME.
THAT'S RIGHT. GENJI WAS TAKEN FROM HIKARU GENJI.
HOW ROMANTIC! I THINK IT'S A LOVELY NAME.
WHOEVER THOUGHT OF IT MUST HAVE GOOD TASTE.
...
I WONDER ABOUT THAT.

OH, MY BAD.
SEN-PAI!
UMM, I...


I'M A SECOND YEAR AT SEIRIN GIRLS ACADEMY.
I HEAR YOU'RE SIXTEEN, MARIA-SAN?
YOU'RE EIGHTEEN, GENJI-SAN?
WHICH GIRL'S SCHOOL DO YOU GO TO?


OH, DON'T SAY THAT!
...
YUP. JUST AN EIGHTEEN--YEAR-OLD BUM. NO SCHOOL. NO JOB.

MARIA ...

I WANT TO HURRY AND LEAVE HOME TOO...

JUN-KUN IS ONLY SEVENTEEN, BUT HE'S ALREADY WORKING, RIGHT?

I THINK THAT'S REALLY ADMIRA-BLE.

OH... I'M SORRY.

TROUBLE WITH YOUR PARENTS?

...

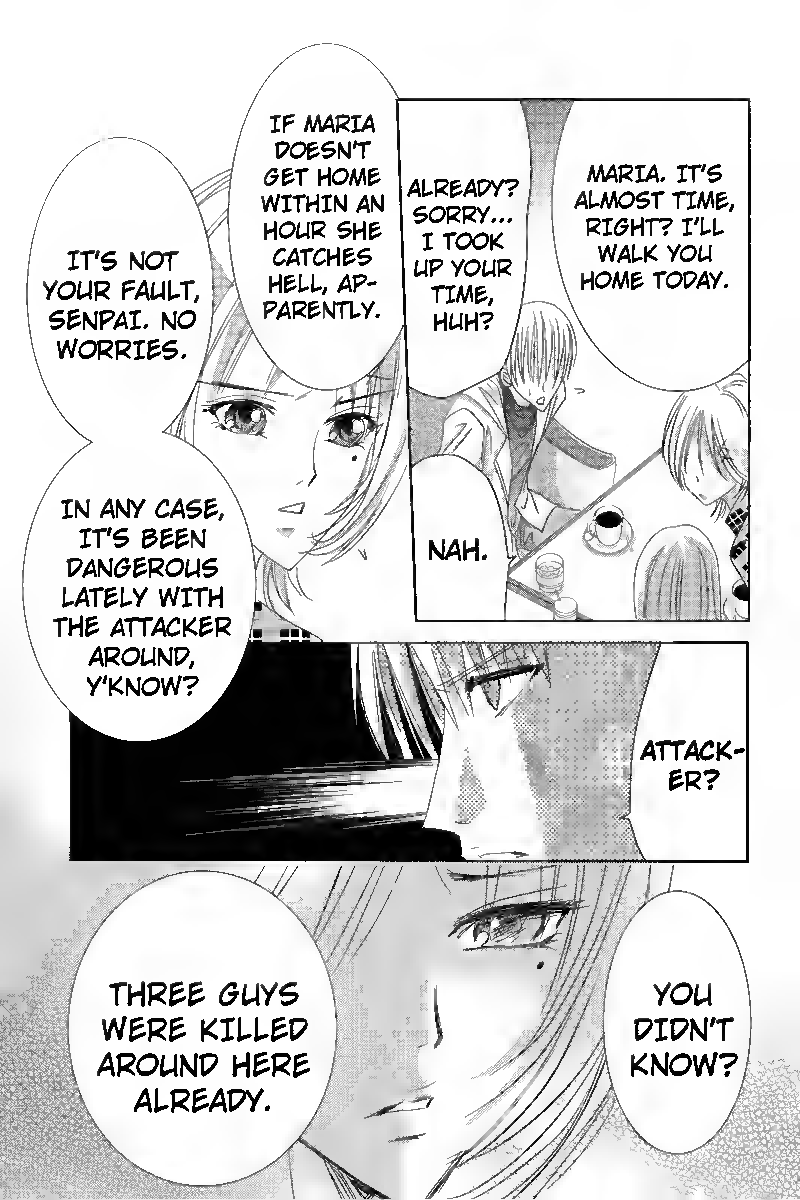
...AFRAID OF MY MOTHER.

I'M...

AFRAID?
MY FAMILY IS VERY STRICT.
AND THEY DON'T LIKE THAT I'M SEEING JUN-KUN, EITHER.
I WAS EVEN LOCKED IN MY ROOM ONCE BEFORE, SO I COULDN'T COME HERE OR GO TO SCHOOL.
AT ONE POINT THEY EVEN TRIED TO TAKE AWAY THIS UMBRELLA JUN-KUN LENT ME...
THOUGH I MANAGED TO GET IT BACK. BUT EVER SINCE THEN MY MOTHER HAS BEEN ACTING STRANGE.

SHE'LL CHASE ME AROUND, HIT ME,
BARK ORDERS AS IF SHE'S SUDDENLY A DIFFERENT PERSON.
ALL WHILE SWINGING AROUND A VINYL UM-BRELLA.
HE DOESN'T HELP YOU?
HMM...
AND YOUR FATHER?

AH...
SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN...
WAIT...
D-
DAD IS...
SHIVER
ブルブル
SHAKE
ガク
SEN-PAI!
CLUNK
You okay?
I...
I'm sorry...
GRIP
ギュッ
FOR A WHILE NOW...
...I'VE HAD A STRONG FEELING THAT SOMETHING IS OFF.

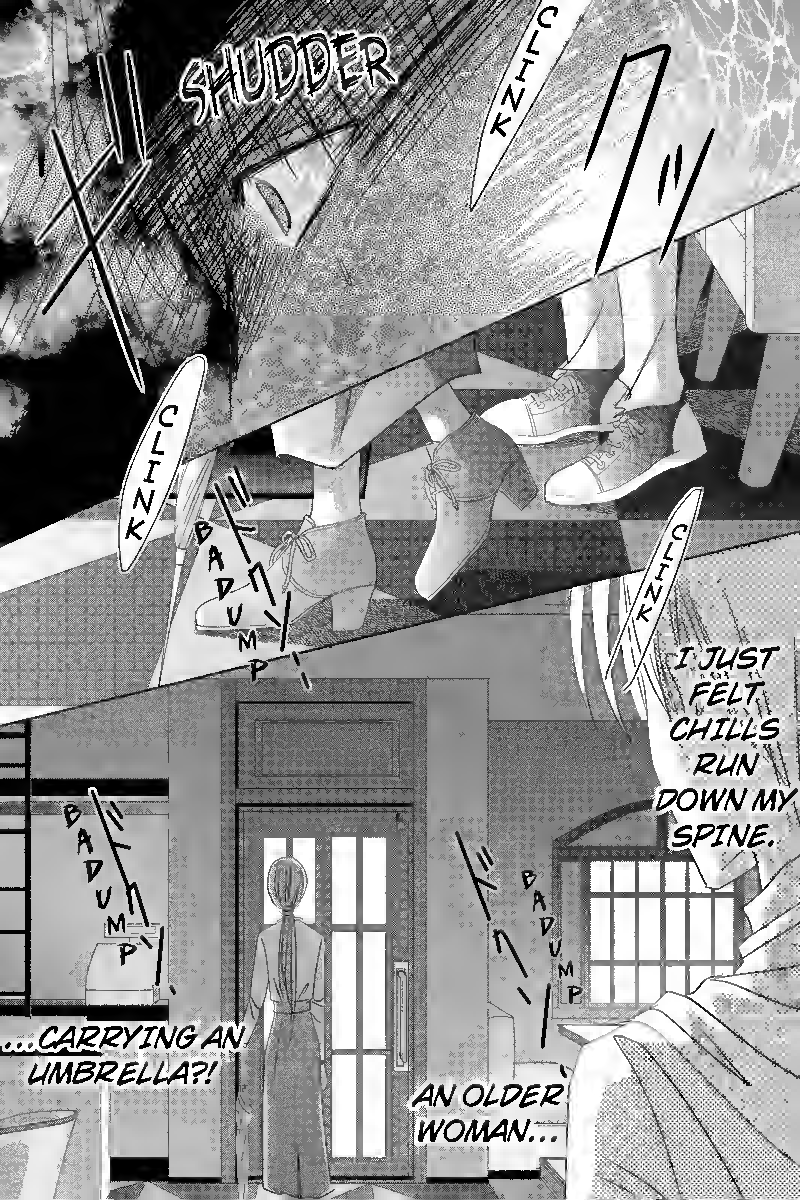

MARIA. IT'S ALMOST TIME, RIGHT? I'LL WALK YOU HOME TODAY.
ALREADY? SORRY... I TOOK UP YOUR TIME, HUH?
NAH.
IF MARIA DOESN'T GET HOME WITHIN AN HOUR SHE CATCHES HELL, APPARENTLY.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, SENPAI. NO WORRIES.
IN ANY CASE, IT'S BEEN DANGEROUS LATELY WITH THE ATTACKER AROUND, Y'KNOW?
ATTACKER?
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
THREE GUYS WERE KILLED AROUND HERE ALREADY.

BADUMP
A WOMAN IN HER FORTIES OR FIFTIES...
BADUMP
A THIN, POINTED OBJECT, THROUGH THE HEART...
THERE'S A RUMOR THAT THE KILLER IS A WOMAN IN HER FORTIES OR FIFTIES.
ALL THE VICTIMS WERE STABBED THROUGH THE HEART FROM BEHIND WITH A THIN, POINTED OBJECT, LIKE AN ICE PICK, AND HAD THEIR MONEY TAKEN FROM THEM.

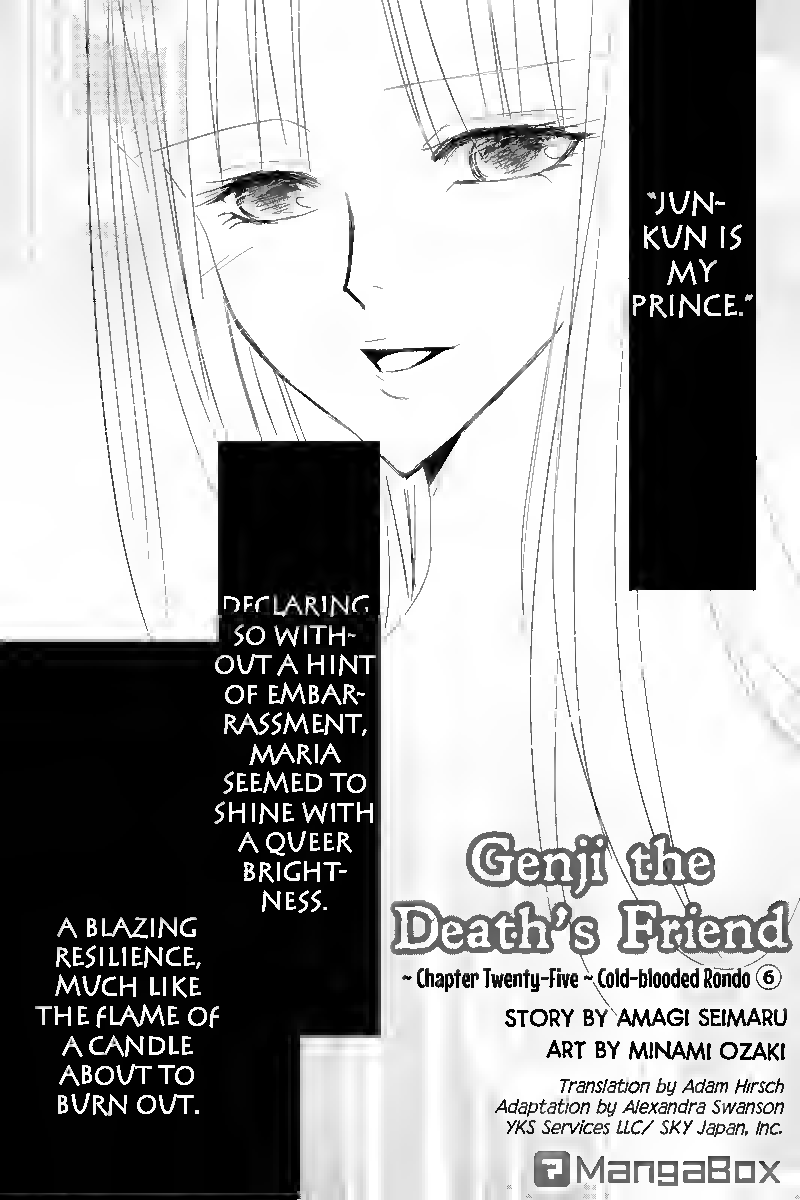
I'M...
...AFRAID OF MY MOTHER.
BADUMP
ARE YOU OKAY?
CAN YOU WALK?
FORTIES OR FIFTIES... THAT'S ABOUT HOW OLD MARIA'S MOTHER SHOULD BE.
COULD THE KILLER BE...?
YEAH...
AH...
I LOVE THIS SONG.

*A popular musician from the 80s.

OKAY, SENPAI ...
Y–
YEAH... LATER.
JUN...?
BADUMP
HE'S BEEN ACTING WEIRD EVER SINCE THE TOPIC SWITCHED TO HER.
BADUMP
SEE YA...
BADUMP
AN ATTACKER?
CLINK


SHUDDER
CLINK
CLINK
BADUMP
CLINK
I JUST FELT CHILLS RUN DOWN MY SPINE.
BADUMP
BADUMP
...CARRYING AN UMBRELLA?!
AN OLDER WOMAN...

GLARE
HUH?!
IT CAN'T BE...



Genji the Death's Friend

~ Chapter Twenty-Five ~ Cold-blooded Rondo ⑥

STORY BY AMAGI SEIMARU
ART BY MINAMI OZAKI

Translation by Adam Hirsch
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
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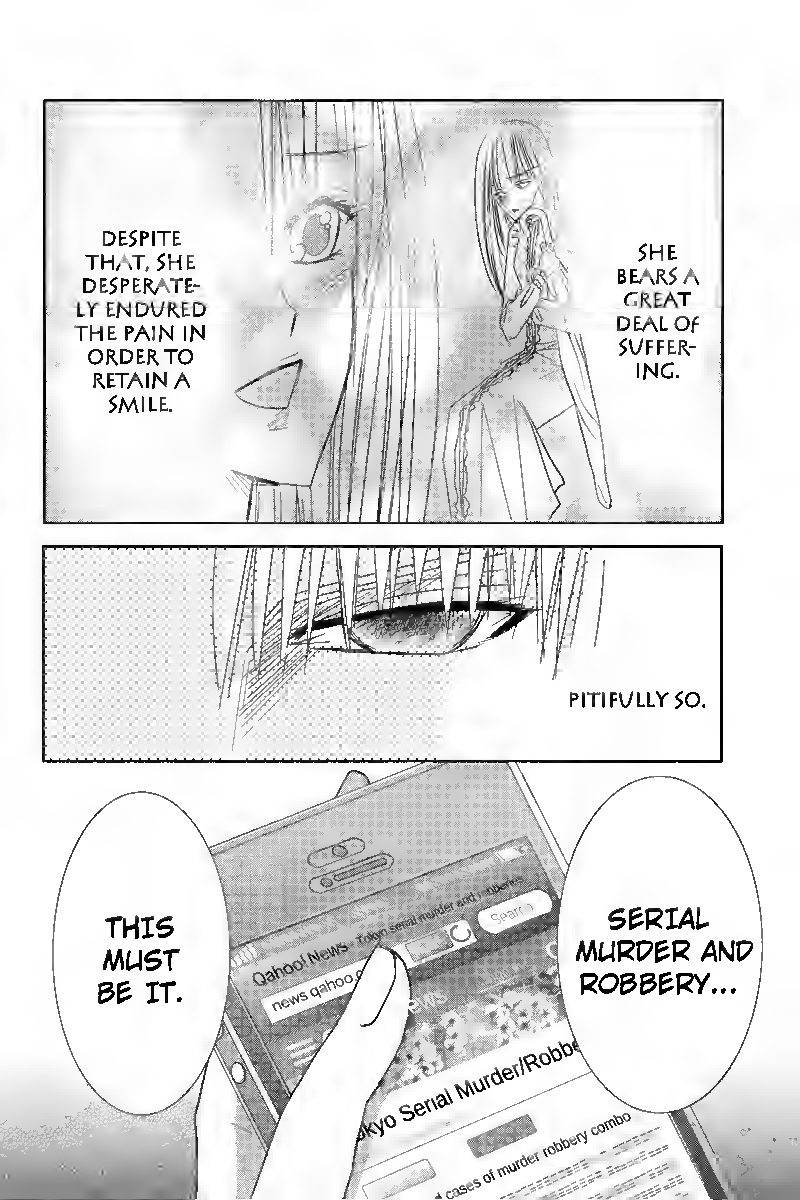
SHE BEARS A GREAT DEAL OF SUFFERING.
DESPITE THAT, SHE DESPERATELY ENDURED THE PAIN IN ORDER TO RETAIN A SMILE.
PITIFULLY SO.
SERIAL MURDER AND ROBBERY...
THIS MUST BE IT.
Qahoo! News - Tokyo serial murder and robberies
Search
news qahoo.
Serial Murder/Robbe
cases of murder robbery combo

ACCORDING TO EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY, THE CULPRIT IS THOUGHT TO BE A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN.
WHY WOULD A WOMAN OF THAT AGE SPECIFICALLY TARGET YOUNG AND STRONG MEN LIKE THIS?
THE VICTIMS WERE ALL YOUNG MEN IN THEIR PRIME.
THE THIRD AMONG THEM BEING A MARTIAL ARTS PRACTI-TIONER.
EACH RECEIVED A SINGLE THRUST FROM BEHIND WITH A SHARP WEAPON WHICH PIERCED THE HEART.

This story is completely fictional and unrelated to any real people, groups, and events.

I GUESS I WON'T FIND OUT ANY-THING EVEN IF I LOOK AROUND, HUH?
WHOOSH
SNAP
?!

YO...
TOUYA!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
DAMN IT...
I HAD A FEELING I'D RUN INTO YOU HERE.
HE'S THE LAST PERSON I WANTED TO SEE.
TELL ME. WHO DIED THIS TIME? OR IS IT ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR HUNCHES?
YOUR EYES HAVE THAT ENTRANCED LOOK AGAIN, GENJI.
HIM AND THAT SICKENING ANTICIPATION FOR FORTHCOMING DEATH.

KONG
CHURCH BELLS?
KONG
RINGING THIS LATE AT NIGHT?
KONG
THIS IS BAD.
WHAT'S WRONG? I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IF YOU JUST KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.
THE MORE I INVOLVE MYSELF WITH HIM...
TELL ME, GENJI.
IS IT THE SYNCHRONICITY AGAIN?
...THE CLOSER DEATH DRAWS NEAR.

GENJI?
IT'S TOO LATE.
I DON'T WANT TO HAND JUN OVER TO THIS MONSTER.
BUT IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM...
I CAN'T STOP IT NOW.
ゴクリ GULP
...
THE STRANGE GIRL, MARIA.
THE DEVIL'S EVOCATION...
THE WOMAN WHO FOLLOWED THEM.
...HAS ALREADY BEGUN.

PLEASE, TOUYA.
I DON'T WANT TO LET JUN DIE.
DON'T KILL HIM.

I'M BEG-GING YOU!

IF YOU HOLD THE VIRGIN MARY'S HAND...
...YOU'LL BE BLESSED WITH GOOD FORTUNE.

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN, GENJI.
SOMEONE IS GOING TO DIE.

Genji the Death's Friend

~ Chapter Twenty-Six ~ Cold-blooded Rondo ⑦

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Translation by Adam Hirsch
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
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STORY BY AMAGI SEIMARU
ART BY MINAMI OZAKI

EARLY IN OUR RELATIONSHIP I RAN LATE TO OUR MEETINGS ON MULTIPLE OCCASIONS.

AND EACH TIME I ARRIVED TO FIND MARIA TREMBLING, NEARLY IN TEARS.

SINCE THEN, I BEGAN TO SHOW UP EARLY...

...FIVE MINUTES BEFORE THE TIME WE AGREED ON, WITHOUT FAIL.

SOMETHING MUST BE UP.

DON'T TELL ME...

SLAM

I'M AFRAID OF MY MOTHER.

I WAS LOCKED IN MY ROOM ONCE...

CHACK
I FOLLOWED MARIA HOME ONCE BEFORE.
BUT IF HER MOTHER, THE WICKED WITCH...
...TURNED HER INTO SNOW WHITE WITH A POISON APPLE...
TRYING TO BE THE PRINCE WHO CHASED CINDERELLA AFTER THEIR MAGIC HOUR TOGETHER.
THEN...
...WITH A MAGIC KISS...

I HAVE TO WAKE HER UP FROM THIS CURSE!
JUN'S ALONE. MARIA ISN'T COMING.
...

I'LL GO CHECK INSIDE. IT'S DANGEROUS, SO WAIT HERE.

TOUYA!

I CAN'T SHAKE OFF THIS EERIE FEELING.

JUN...

WHERE DID YOU HURRY OFF TO?

EHH?

AHH, YES. I KNOW THE ONE.

SEEMS SHE DIDN'T COME IN TODAY.

LATELY I'VE SEEN HER WITH A RATHER CUTE BOY.

HMM... CURIOUS...

AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN...

...BY THAT?

AGAIN?
GENJI...
BING
BING
MARIA!
BAM
BAM
BAM
YOU'RE THERE, RIGHT?!

SO THIS IS MARIA'S HOUSE...
MARIA!
DESPITE BEING LAVISH, IT'S FAIRLY RUN-DOWN.
?!
THAT WOMAN!

MISS MARIA IS NOT HOME.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SHE HASN'T COME TO OUR USUAL MEETING PLACE!
MISS MARIA IS NOT HOME.
SHE ISN'T SICK, IS SHE?!

SLAM
AH...
BAM
BAM
WAIT! HANG ON A SECOND!
MARIA!
BAM
DAMN IT...
GRIT
JUN!

MARIA...
WHERE ARE YOU?
KSSHH

MARIA ...
SILENCE
!
MARIA!
WHERE ARE YOU?!
IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, ANSWER!
UP-STAIRS?!
JUN-KUN?
IS THAT YOU, JUN-KUN?!
MARIA!
BAM
BAM

JUN-KUN!
CHACK
CHACK
DAMN IT... WHAT'S WITH THIS THING?
IT'S ALL RIGHT! I'M HERE!
HANG ON, MARIA!
I'LL GET YOU OUT OF THERE!
WHOO
!
WHACK

FWUMP
...

RUSTLE
JUN MUST'VE GOTTEN IN THIS WAY.
TAP
THE INSIDE IS PRETTY SHABBY TOO.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE NO ONE HAS LIVED HERE FOR YEARS.

WHAT A GLOOMY PLACE.
DIM, WITH NO SIGN OF LIFE.
ARE MARIA AND THAT WOMAN THE ONLY ONES LIVING IN THIS HUGE HOUSE?
IS THAT WOMAN NOT HER MOTHER, THEN?
THESE MUST BE HER PARENTS.
...WEIRD ABOUT THIS PHOTO.
SOMETHING SEEMS...

BUT THE PHOTO ITSELF...
FROM THE LOOKS OF IT...
MARIA COULDN'T HAVE BEEN OLDER THAN TEN WHEN THIS WAS TAKEN.
...LOOKS LIKE IT'S BEEN SITTING HERE FOR DECADES.
AN OLD HOUSE. STAGNATED AIR.
A PHOTO THAT SEEMS TO LOCK MARIA IN TIME.

GENJI-SAN...?
I'M A SECOND YEAR AT SEIRIN GIRLS' ACADEMY.
MARIA! SHE SAYS SHE'S SIXTEEN!
AHH... HERE'S NO GOOD FOR HER.
THEY SAY I'M JUST LIKE MY DAD WHEN HE WAS YOUNG.
WE ALWAYS MEET AT THE SAME PLACE AT THE SAME TIME.

WHACK
KUH!
THUD
CRASH
DAHH...
KSHH
TCH...

WHAP
WE SEEM TO HAVE A LOT OF IN-TRUDERS TODAY...
YOU'RE...

JUN-KUN...
JUN-KUN...
I LOVE YOU, JUN-KUN...
I WANT TO SEE YOU.
IS THAT SO MUCH TO ASK?
Genji the Death's Friend
~ Chapter Twenty-Seven ~ Cold-blooded Rondo ⑧
STORY BY AMAGI SEIMARU
ART BY MINAMI OZAKI
Translation by Adam Hirsch
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
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YOU WERE AT CÉZANNE, RIGHT?
BAM
JUN-KUN?
JUN-KUN!
BAM
BAM
WHERE'S JUN? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH MARIA?
WHERE ARE YOU?!

WHICK
THAT'S SOME ATTITUDE, COMING FROM AN INTRUDER.
YOU WOKE MISS MARIA FROM HER SLUMBER.
SLUMBER...?
IT'S ALL THAT JUN BOY'S FAULT...
NOW AND IN THE PAST, MISS MARIA IS...!

WHAT?!
M-MISS MARIA?! DID SHE... BREAK THE WINDOW?!
?!
KSHHH
IS THAT...THE UMBRELLA MARIA WAS CARRYING?
WHAT'S JUN'S FAULT?
WHAT DOES SHE MEAN BY THE PAST?
JUMP

WHAT THE HELL?
NOT ONLY THAT... IT LOOKS OLD AND RUSTED.
THE TIP IS SHARPENED TO A POINT.

GIVE ME BACK...

...MY UMBRELLA.

GIVE IT TO ME!

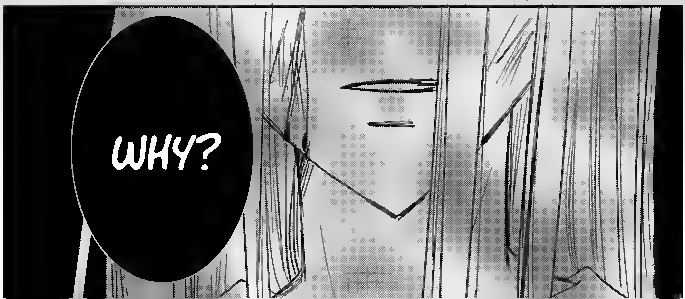
MISS MARIA...
YOU MUSTN'T!
MA...
MOTHER?
THAT'S MY... JUN-KUN'S UMBRELLA, ISN'T IT?
MARIA?

DON'T!

I CANNOT LET YOU HAVE THAT, MISS MARIA!

NO... I CAN NO LONGER LET YOU LEAVE THIS MANOR.

NEVER AGAIN...



WHY? WHY DO YOU ALWAYS TRY TO STOP ME, MOTHER?
SHUDDER
I LOVE JUN-KUN. I WANT TO SEE HIM...
IS THAT SO MUCH TO ASK?
THAT'S ALL I WANT...

FUMP
GIVE ME BACK MY UM-BREL-LA!
RUN AWAY! HURRY!
!
HRRRR
MISS...

SSCHLT
MA...
RIA...

SLUMP
WHA–
...
MISS...
MA...
RI...A.
PLIP
PLIP
WHERE IS JUN-KUN?

SWOO
ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE MY UMBRELLA FROM ME TOO?
I BORROWED THIS FROM JUN-KUN. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.
OH...DADDY... JUN-KUN HAS BEEN HAVING TROUBLE WITH MONEY LATELY...
ISN'T IT ALL RIGHT IF WE JUST...GIVE HIM SOME?
WE HAVE A LOT OF MONEY, DON'T WE?
I WANT JUN-KUN TO TO BE HAPPY.

SHOO
DON'T GET IN MY WAY TOO, DADDY!
MARIA!
!

HE'S NOT YOUR FATHER,
MARIA...
JUN!
JUN-KUN...

YOU OKAY, GENJI-SENPAI?

YEAH... WHAT ABOUT YOU, JUN?

JUN-KUN...

WHY ARE MY MOTHER AND FATHER SO AGAINST THAT? WHY DO THEY KEEP ME INSIDE AND TAKE MY PRECIOUS UMBRELLA?

I JUST WANT TO BE WITH YOU, JUN-KUN.

WHY DO THEY TELL ME TO JUST FORGET ABOUT EVERYTHING?

I WANT TO SEE YOU SMILE.

JUN...THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH MARIA... SHE'S NUTS. WE SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE...

HUH?

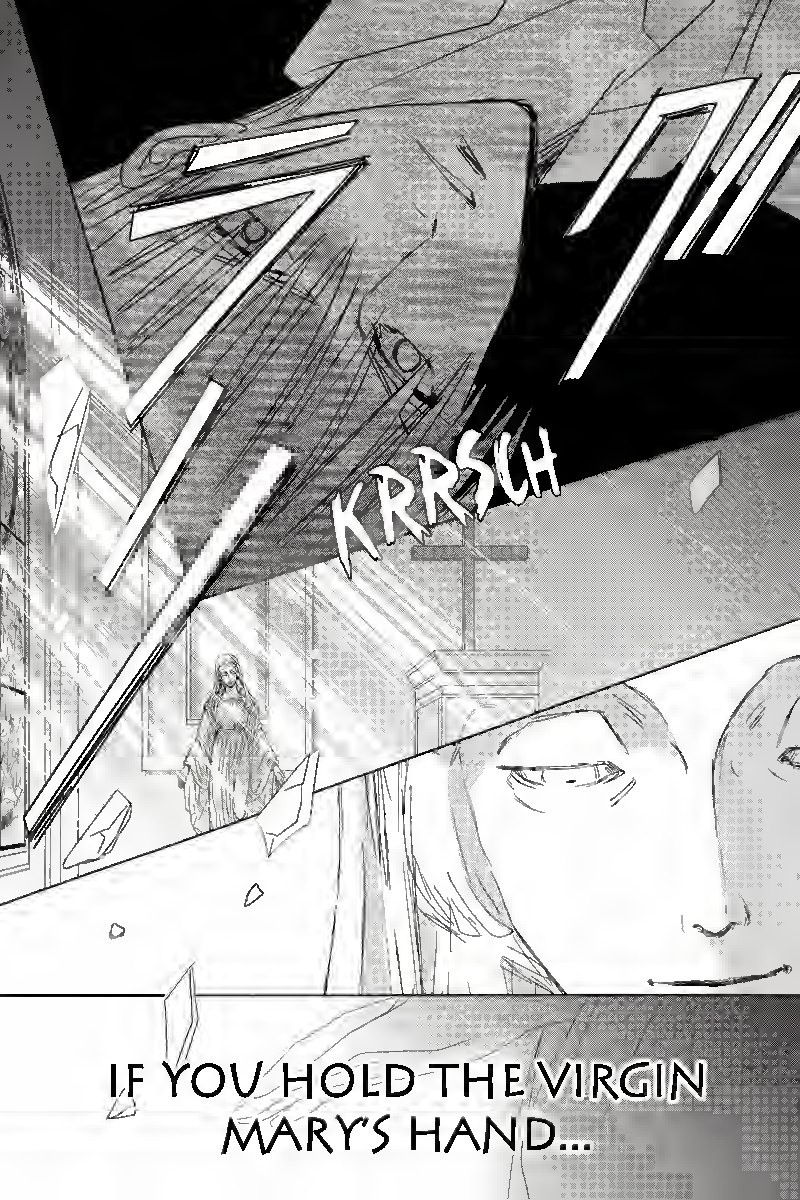
YOU DIDN'T NOTICE, DID YOU, SENPAI?

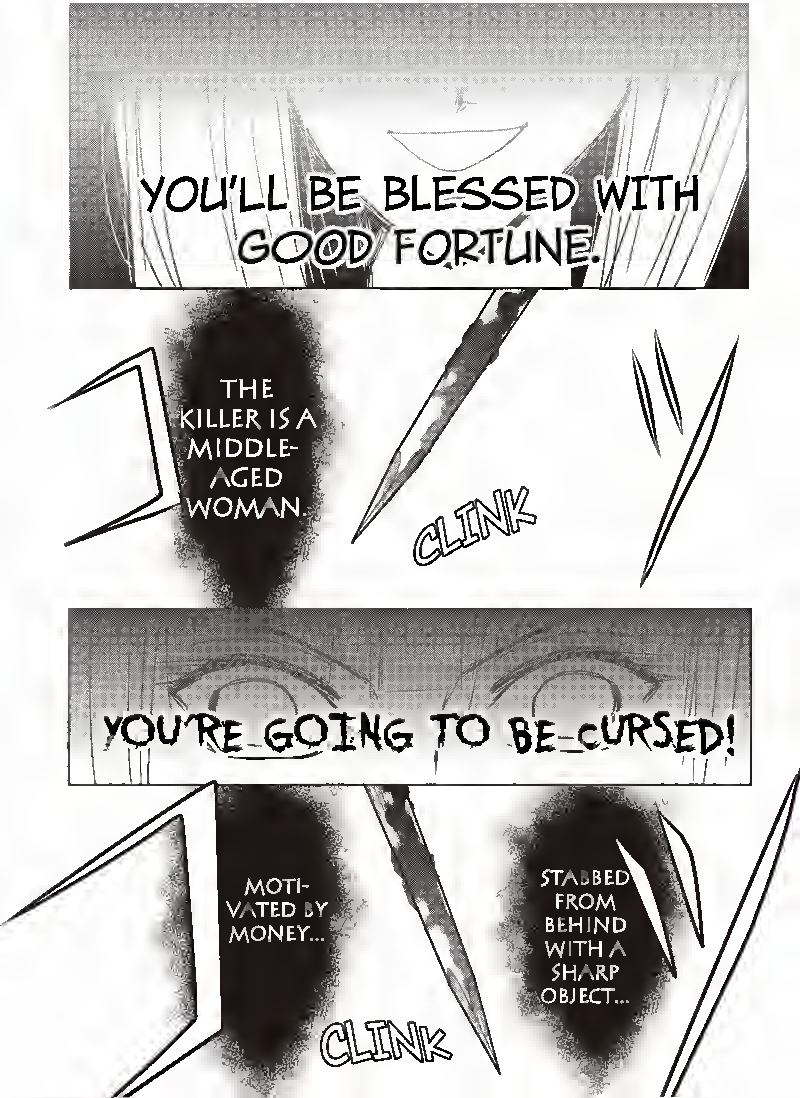
I AL-READY KNOW.

IT'S THE SAME AS THE INCI-DENT FROM BEFORE.

IT'S MY DAD.

THE ONE MARIA IS LOOKING AT ISN'T ME...

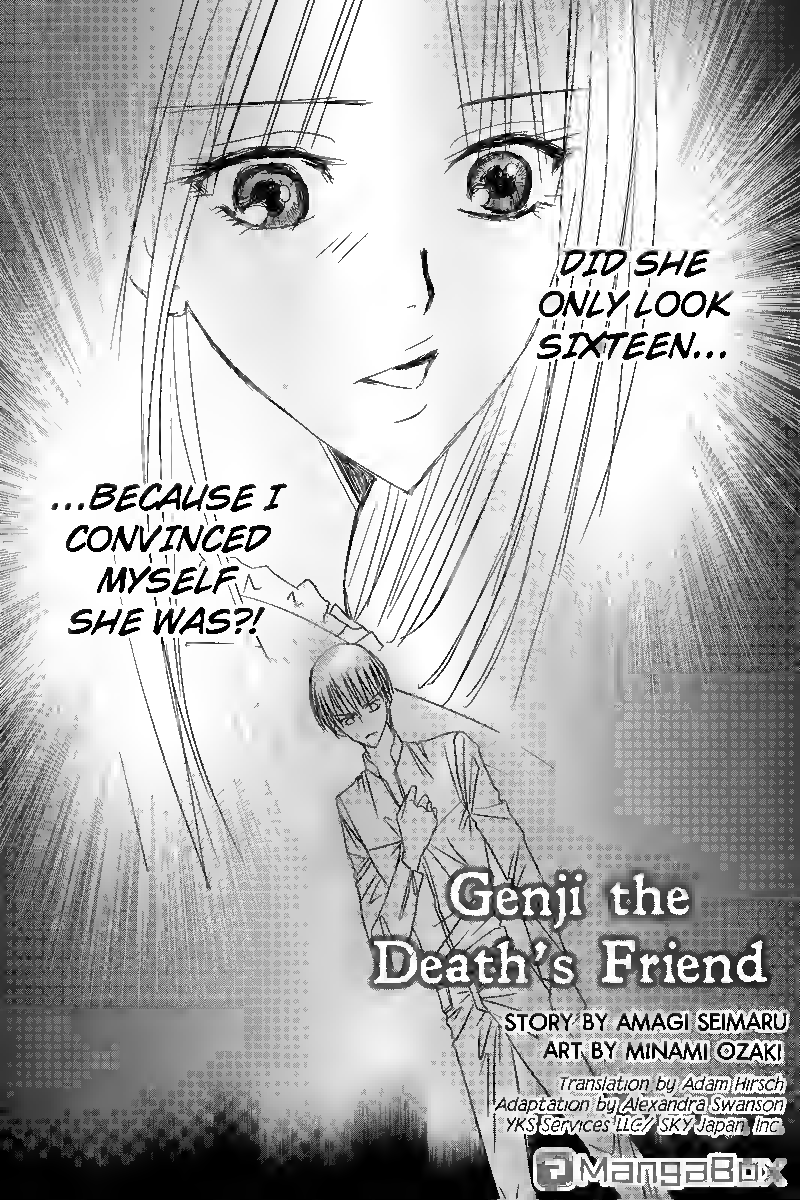

KRRSCH
IF YOU HOLD THE VIRGIN MARY'S HAND...


YOU'LL BE BLESSED WITH GOOD FORTUNE.
THE KILLER IS A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN.
CLINK
YOU'RE GOING TO BE CURSED!
MOTI-VATED BY MONEY...
STABBED FROM BEHIND WITH A SHARP OBJECT...
CLINK

AHH...
I CAN'T BELIEVE...
AH...
CLINK
...YOU DESTROYED THE IMAGE OF MARY!
I ONLY WANTED TO BE HAPPY WITH JUN-KUN.
THAT'S NOT...

THAT'S ALL...
...I EVER WANTED.

I COULD NEVER FORGET.
NEVER FORGET...
MARIA...
NEVER...


DID SHE ONLY LOOK SIXTEEN...
...BECAUSE I CONVINCED MYSELF SHE WAS?!
Genji the Death's Friend
STORY BY AMAGI SEIMARU
ART BY MINAMI OZAKI
Translation by Adam Hirsch
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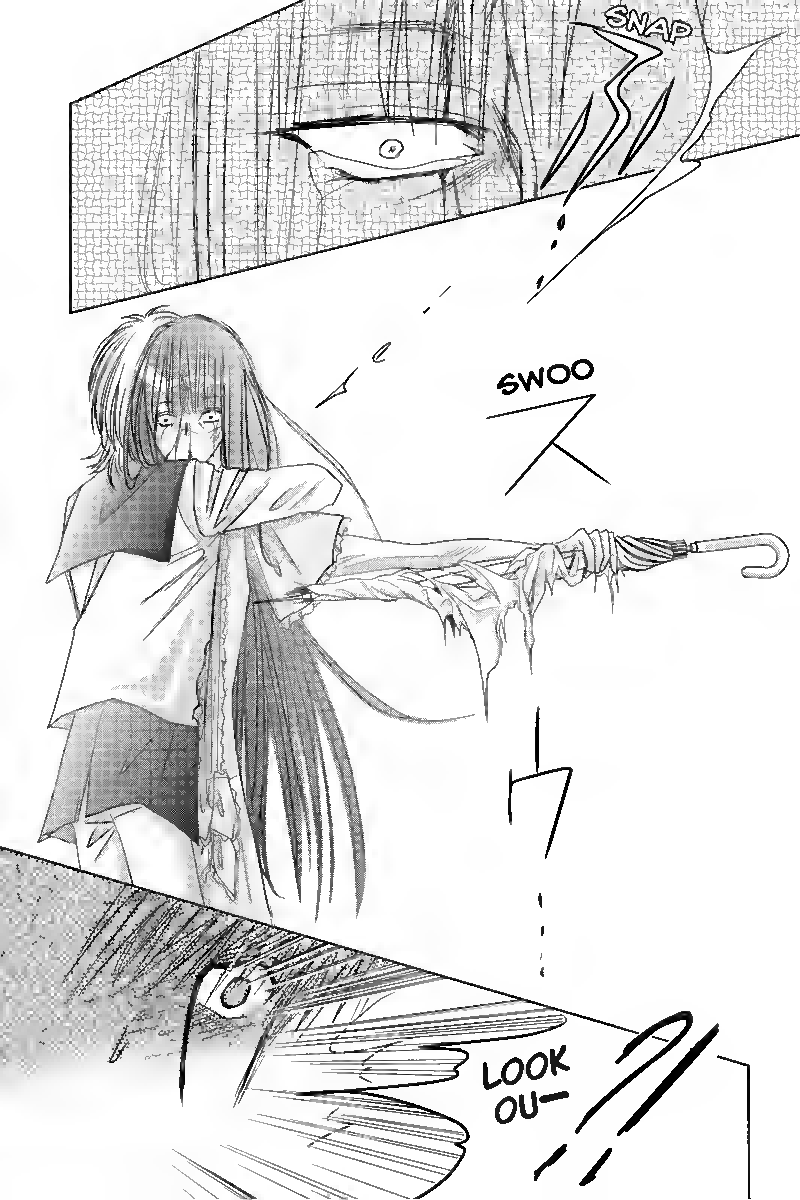
HOW COULD WE FORGET?
THAT'S RIGHT.
SIFF
...KUN.
JUN...
MARIA...
IT'S THE SAME FOR ME TOO,

YOU SAID SO YOUR-SELF.
I'M YOUR PRINCE, AFTER ALL.
DON'T YOU RE-MEMBER?
I...
I...
I DON'T KNOW...
...THIS HAS HAP-PENED BEFORE, BUT...
I FEEL AS IF...

I WANT TO SEE YOU.
ALL I KNOW IS YOU, JUN-KUN.
ONLY YOU...
EVERY-THING IS CLOUDY... SO VAGUE...
I JUST DON'T KNOW.
PLIP
PLIP
GRIP
YOU ARE MY WORLD...
...
ONLY... YOU...

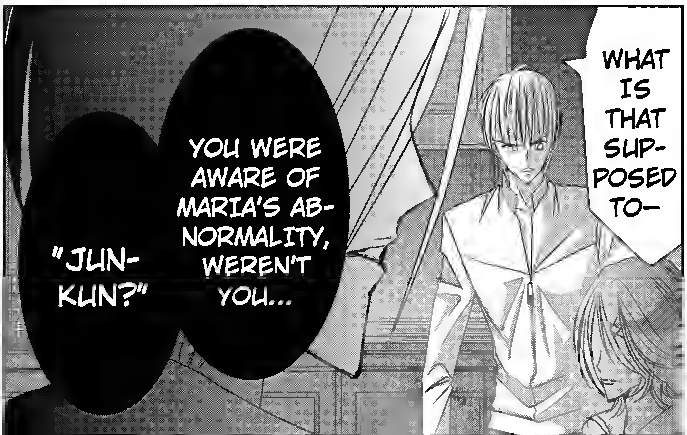
I KNOW...
I KNOW, MARIA...
JUN...


SNAP
SWOO
LOOK
OU—

THMP
SLUMP
MA–

MARIA!
I ONLY KNOCKED HER OUT. IT WOULD BE BEST IF SHE SLEEPS FOR NOW.
HER WOUNDS DON'T LOOK SERIOUS, EITHER.
RATHER COLD OF YOU TO LEAVE ME BEHIND, GENJI.
TOUYA!
I WARNED YOU THAT IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS.

SENPAI... YOU TOLD HIM ABOUT MARIA?
HUH? I...
I WAS JUST...
...WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
ABOUT ME?
IS THAT RIGHT?


WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO—
YOU WERE AWARE OF MARIA'S ABNORMALITY, WEREN'T YOU...
"JUN-KUN?"

EVENTUALLY, I REALIZED IF MY DAD WERE STILL ALIVE, HE'D BE AROUND MARIA'S AGE.
...I HAD THE FEELING SHE'D MISTAKEN ME FOR SOMEONE ELSE.
...
IT WOULDN'T BE SURPRISING IF SHE AND MY DAD HAD GONE OUT WHEN THEY WERE YOUNG.
HIS NAME WAS JUNYA, WHILE MINE IS JUNICHI. SAME JUN... SAME FACE...
THE FIRST TIME I MET MARIA AT CÉZANNE...
AND IF THAT HAS TO DO WITH WHY SHE CLAIMS TO STILL BE SIXTEEN.
SO I WONDERED HOW SHE'D MISTAKE ME FOR MY DAD WHEN SHE HAD ALSO GOTTEN OLDER...

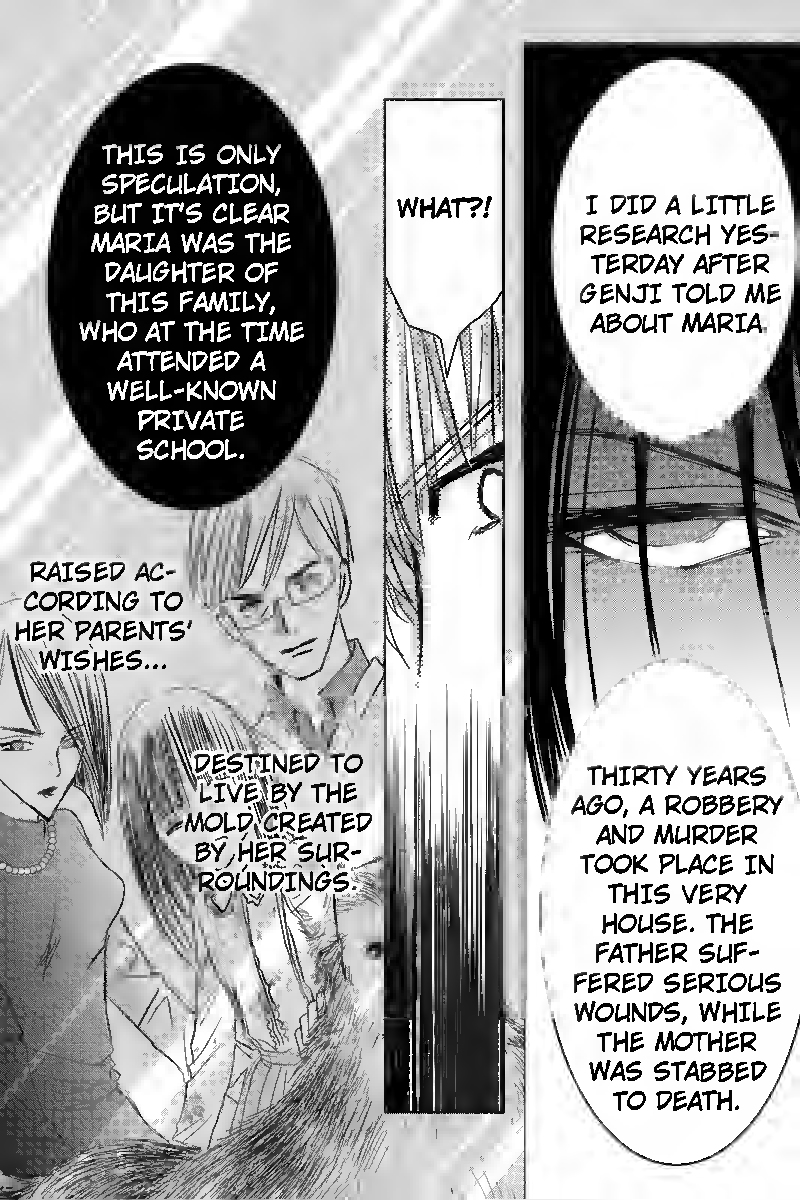
SHE'LL GO ON AND ON ABOUT HER MEMORIES WITH A "JUN-KUN" I DON'T KNOW.

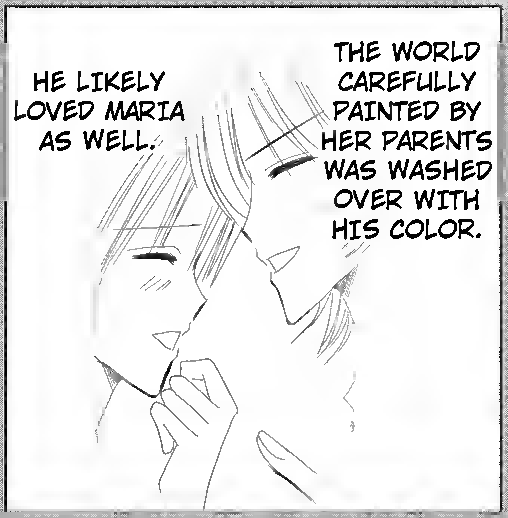
BUT SHE CAN'T RE-MEMBER WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT JUST YES-TERDAY.

ANTERO-GRADE AMNESIA.

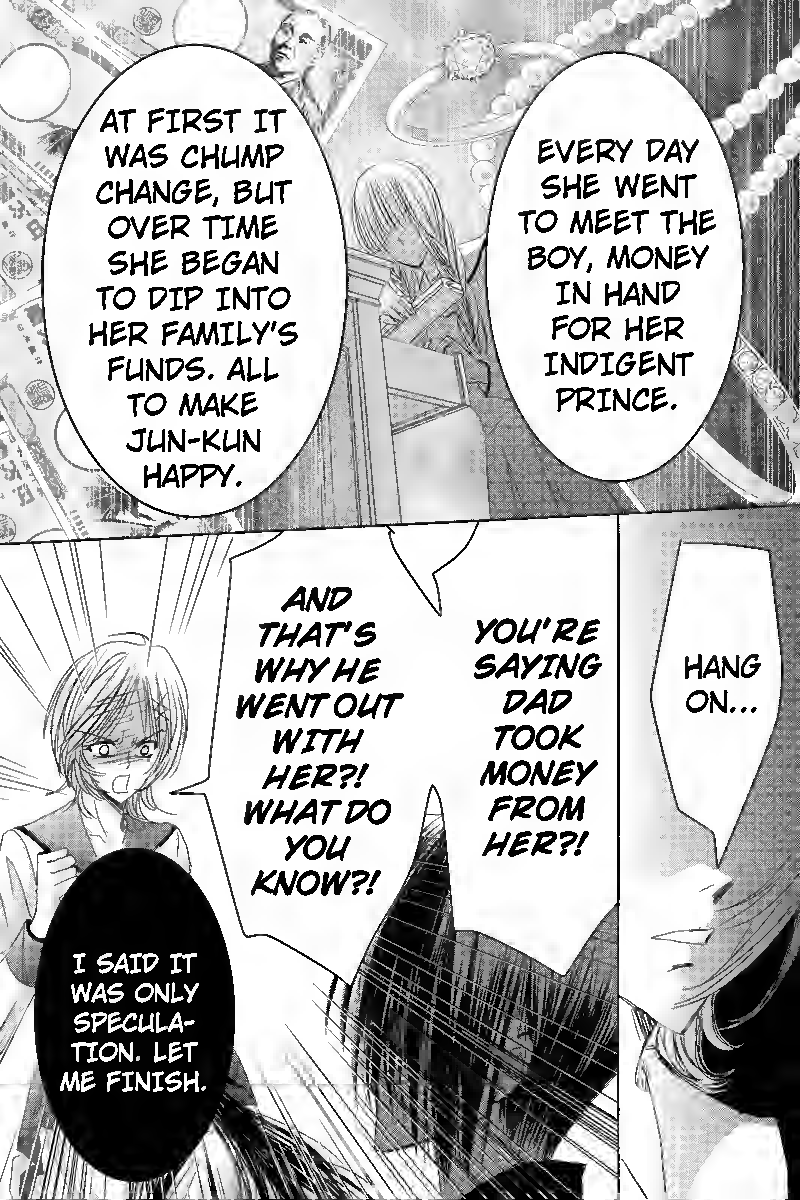
MARIA'S MEMORIES LIKELY DON'T LAST FOR MORE THAN A FEW HOURS.

ANTERO—WHAT?
IT'S A CONDITION THAT STEMS FROM THE HIPPOCAMPUS COMPONENT OF THE TEMPORAL LOBE.
DAMAGE DONE TO THIS AREA, INTERNALLY OR VIA SURGICAL MEANS, HINDERS THE BRAIN'S PERCEPTION AND MEMORY RETAINMENT CAPABILITIES.
ANTEROGRADE. A TYPE OF AMNESIA.
ANY MEMORIES CREATED AFTER THE TIME THE DAMAGE WAS SUSTAINED CANNOT BE STORED FOR LONG.


I DID A LITTLE RESEARCH YESTERDAY AFTER GENJI TOLD ME ABOUT MARIA.
WHAT?!
THIS IS ONLY SPECULATION, BUT IT'S CLEAR MARIA WAS THE DAUGHTER OF THIS FAMILY, WHO AT THE TIME ATTENDED A WELL-KNOWN PRIVATE SCHOOL.
THIRTY YEARS AGO, A ROBBERY AND MURDER TOOK PLACE IN THIS VERY HOUSE. THE FATHER SUFFERED SERIOUS WOUNDS, WHILE THE MOTHER WAS STABBED TO DEATH.
RAISED ACCORDING TO HER PARENTS' WISHES...
DESTINED TO LIVE BY THE MOLD CREATED BY HER SURROUNDINGS.



BUT HE WAS POOR.


EVERY DAY SHE WENT TO MEET THE BOY, MONEY IN HAND FOR HER INDIGENT PRINCE.
AT FIRST IT WAS CHUMP CHANGE, BUT OVER TIME SHE BEGAN TO DIP INTO HER FAMILY'S FUNDS. ALL TO MAKE JUN-KUN HAPPY.
HANG ON...
YOU'RE SAYING DAD TOOK MONEY FROM HER?!
AND THAT'S WHY HE WENT OUT WITH HER?! WHAT DO YOU KNOW?!
I SAID IT WAS ONLY SPECULA-TION. LET ME FINISH.

AROUND THE SAME TIME, MARIA'S STELLAR GRADES BEGAN TO PLUMMET, WHILE SHE BEGAN TO COME HOME LATER AND LATER.
SUSPICIOUS OF THEIR DAUGHTER'S BEHAVIOR, HER PARENTS EVENTUALLY FOUND OUT ABOUT JUN-KUN.
INFURIATED, THEY PLACED MARIA UNDER HOUSE ARREST AND FORBADE HER FROM SEEING HER PRINCE ANY LONGER.
THE UMBRELLA JUN GAVE HER.
FINALLY...THEY ATTEMPTED TO DISPOSE OF HER GREATEST TREASURE.

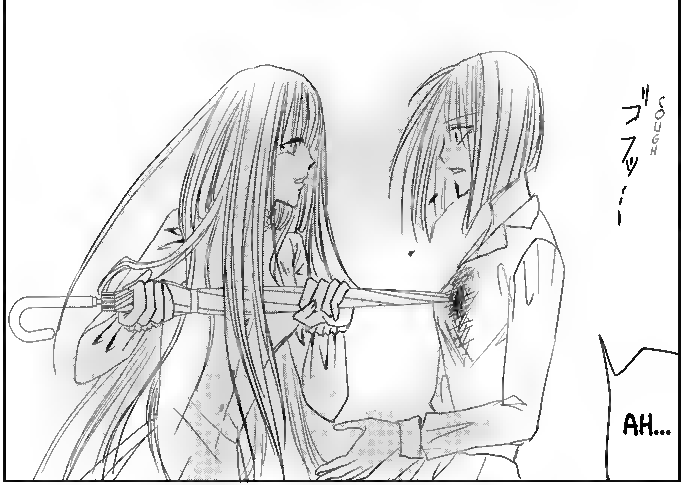
THAT DECI-
SIVE CHAIN
OF EVENTS...
...LED TO THE
DESTRUCTION
OF MARIA'S
PSYCHE.

~ Chapter Twenty-Nine ~ Cold-blooded Rondo ⑩
Genji the Death's Friend
Translation by Adam Hirsch
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
YKS Services LLC/ SKY Japan, Inc
STORY BY AMAGI SEIMARU
ART BY MINAMI OZAKI
MangaBox

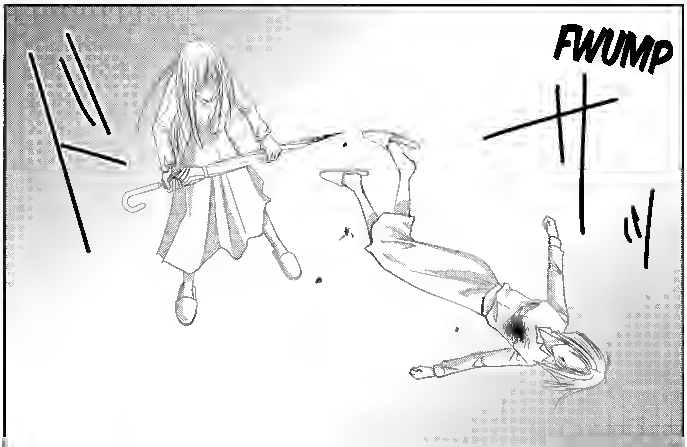
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! MOTHER! FATHER! STOP IT!
NO! THAT UMBRELLA IS IMPORTANT TO ME! YOU CAN'T...!
MARIA, CALM DOWN! HEY, WOULD YOU GET RID OF THAT THING ALREADY?!
YOU BROUGHT THIS ON YOURSELF, MARIA.
NOOOOO!

BUMP
GIVE IT BACK!
MARIA!
MARI—
JUN-KUN GAVE THIS TO ME! JUN-KUN...!
YOU'RE TURNING INTO A DE-LINQUENT BECAUSE OF THAT BOY!
LET GO, MARIA!
NO!

SCHLT
MARIA!


ゴフッ…
COUGH
AH...

SHLUP


FWUMP

AH...
AHH...
AHH...
TWITCH
TWITCH
AAAAAAHHHHHH

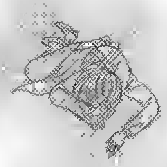
I SAY THIS BECAUSE THERE ARE SIGNS THAT HINT MARIA'S FATHER USED HIS CONNECTIONS TO COVER UP THE INCIDENT CAUSED BY HIS DAUGHTER.

...AFTER THAT, IT'S LIKELY THAT MARIA AND HER FATHER GOT INTO A STRUGGLE AND PROCEEDED TO FALL FROM THE SECOND FLOOR BALCONY TOGETHER.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

NO WAY...

BUT I HAVE GROUNDS FOR MY SPECULATION.



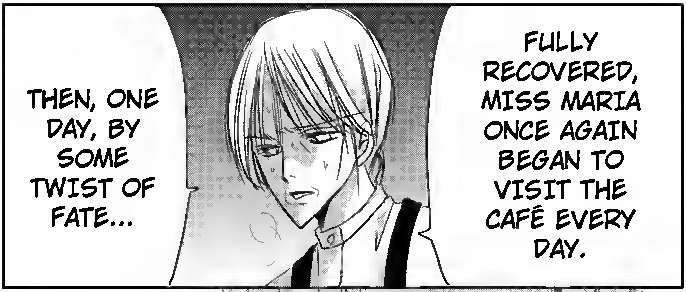
WE WON'T KNOW FOR SURE UNTIL WE HEAR THE TRUTH FROM THIS WOMAN.

THE BLOW TO THE HEAD MARIA SUSTAINED FROM THE FALL...
...PUT HER IN A COMA FOR THIRTY YEARS.
!

WHEN MARIA MIRACU-LOUSLY AWOKE...
...HER BRAIN WAS FOUND TO HAVE SUSTAINED SEVERE DAMAGE.
YOU'VE IN-VESTIGATED THAT FAR, I SEE...
AH...
I AM...THE DAUGHTER OF THIS HOME'S PREVIOUS RESIDENT BUTLER.

MY FATHER ALSO PASSED, LEAVING THE DUTY OF HER SUPERVISION TO ME.
FOR YEARS I LOOKED OVER MISS MARIA AS SHE SLUMBERED...
WHEN THE LATE MASTER PASSED AWAY DUE TO ILLNESS...
...HE LEFT MY FATHER A LARGE FORTUNE AND ASKED THAT HE CONTINUE TO LOOK AFTER MISS MARIA.
...MISS MARIA HAD NOT AGED A DAY PAST SIXTEEN...
WHEN SHE FINALLY AWOKE...

GOD'S GLORIOUS GIFT...
...WAS ALSO THE DEVIL'S BLESS-ING.
TIME STOPPED FOR MISS MARIA THIRTY YEARS AGO.


THEN, ONE DAY, BY SOME TWIST OF FATE...
FULLY RECOVERED, MISS MARIA ONCE AGAIN BEGAN TO VISIT THE CAFÉ EVERY DAY.

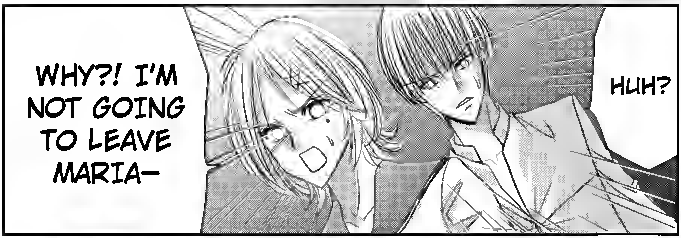
MARIA...
...SHE MET "JUN-KUN" AGAIN.

GENJI.

I NEED YOU BOTH TO LEAVE NOW.

JUN-KUN.

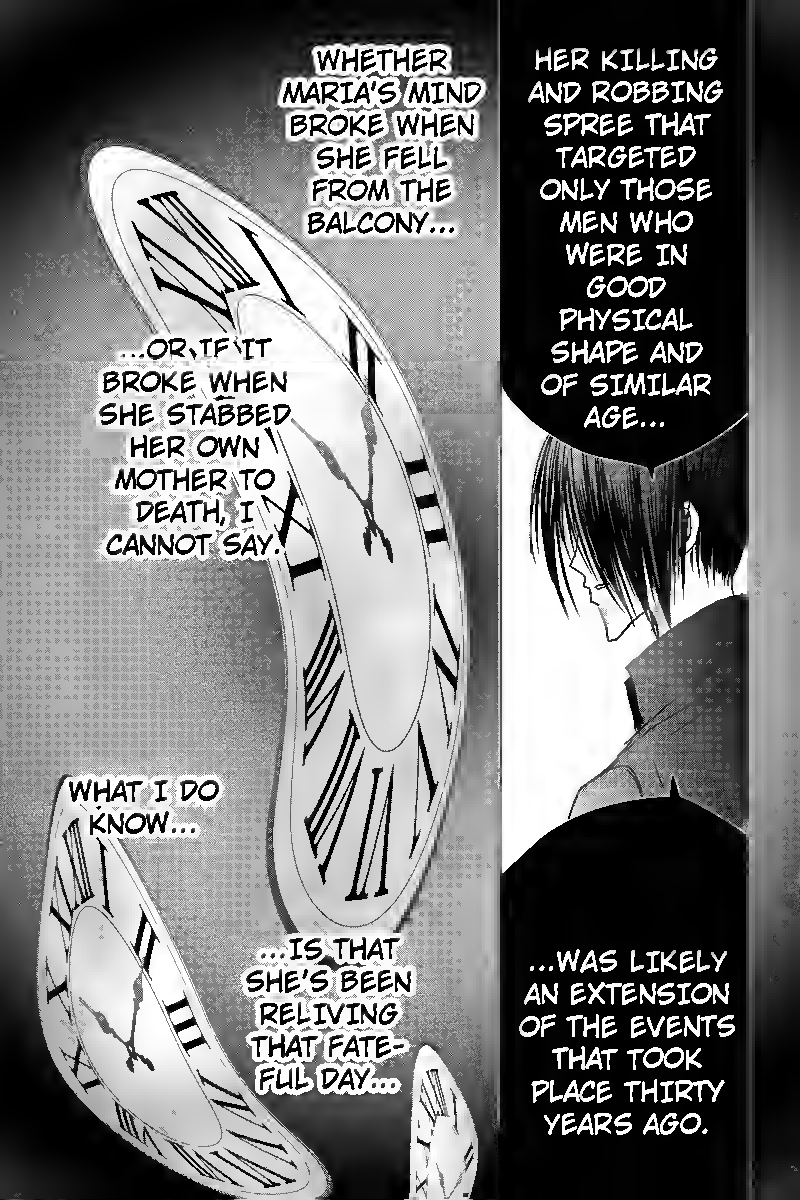
GO HOME AND WAIT FOR TWO DAYS OR SO.



MARIA HAS ALREADY MURDERED THREE PEOPLE.

IF YOU DON'T WANT HER TO SPEND THE REST OF HER LIFE IN PRISON...

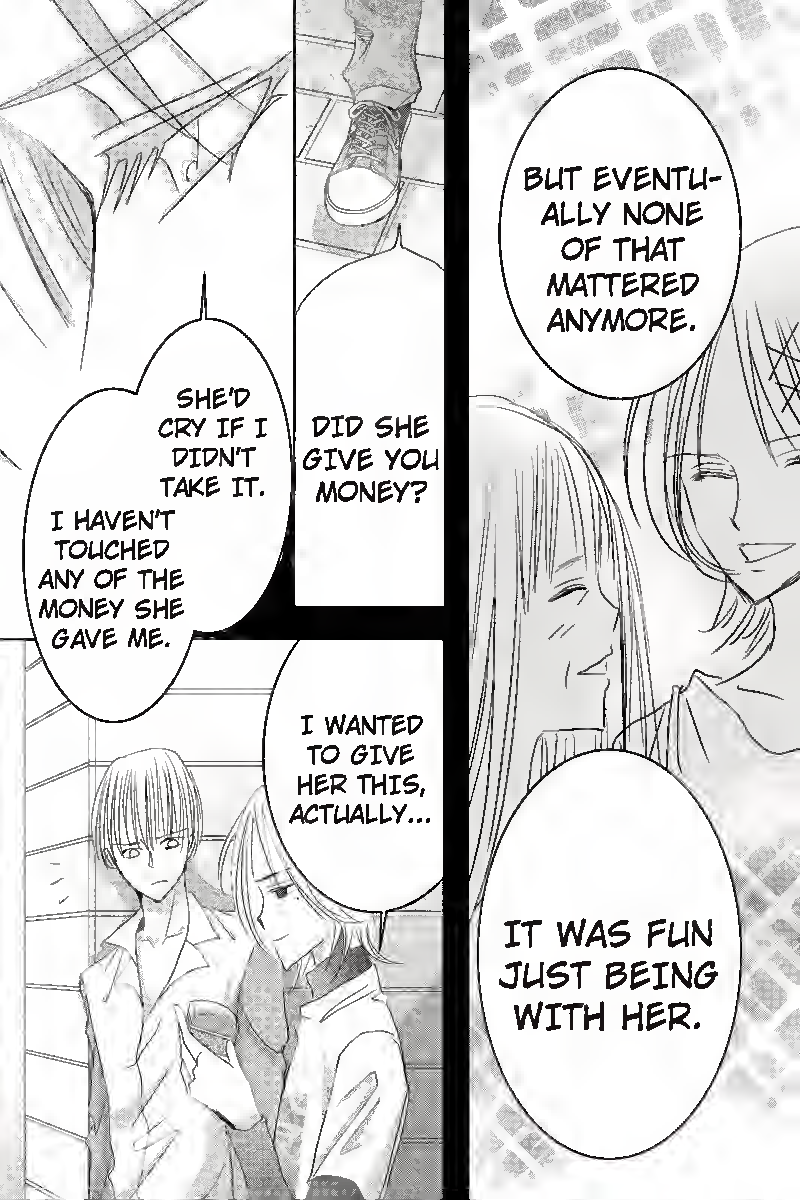
...LET ME HANDLE THIS.

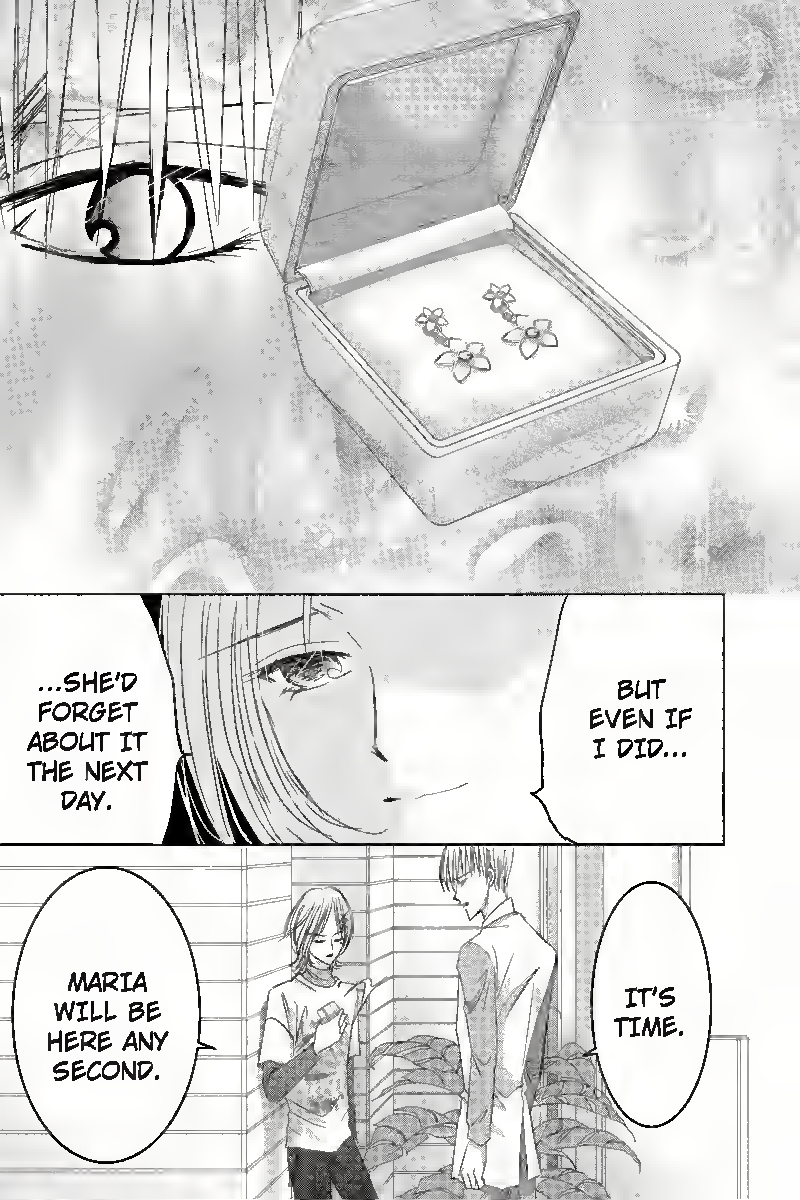

WHETHER MARIA'S MIND BROKE WHEN SHE FELL FROM THE BALCONY...
...OR, IF IT BROKE WHEN SHE STABBED HER OWN MOTHER TO DEATH, I CANNOT SAY.
WHAT I DO KNOW...
...IS THAT SHE'S BEEN RELIVING THAT FATE-FUL DAY...
HER KILLING AND ROBBING SPREE THAT TARGETED ONLY THOSE MEN WHO WERE IN GOOD PHYSICAL SHAPE AND OF SIMILAR AGE...
...WAS LIKELY AN EXTENSION OF THE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE THIRTY YEARS AGO.

...TIME AND TIME AGAIN...
café
セザンヌ
Sign: Café Cézanne
IT'S MY FAULT...
...ISN'T IT?

IF I HAD JUST TOLD HER I WASN'T THE "JUN-KUN" SHE THOUGHT I WAS.
I KNEW SOMETHING WAS UP, BUT I CHOSE TO PLAY ALONG INSTEAD.
I PUSHED MARIA INTO A CORNER.
IF I HAD JUST TOLD HER SHE WASN'T A SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL...
EVEN IF YOU HAD, SHE WOULD HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT ANYWAY.
THEN WHAT IF I JUST DIDN'T GO TO CÉZANNE?
IF MARIA HADN'T MET ME, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE ENDED UP LIKE THAT!
THE NEXT DAY SHE WOULD'VE GREETED YOU WITH A SMILE LIKE ALWAYS.
JUN...

THEN WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO KEEP MEETING WITH HER?
YOU KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG, DIDN'T YOU?
BECAUSE I LOVED HER...
I THOUGHT I HAD TO BE KIND TO HER IN HIS PLACE. NOT THAT I WAS TRYING TO ATONE FOR HIS SINS OR ANYTHING...
MAYBE BECAUSE HE'D DUMPED HER REALLY CRUELLY IN THE PAST OR SOMETHING.
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN MY DAD'S FAULT SHE ENDED UP THE WAY SHE WAS.

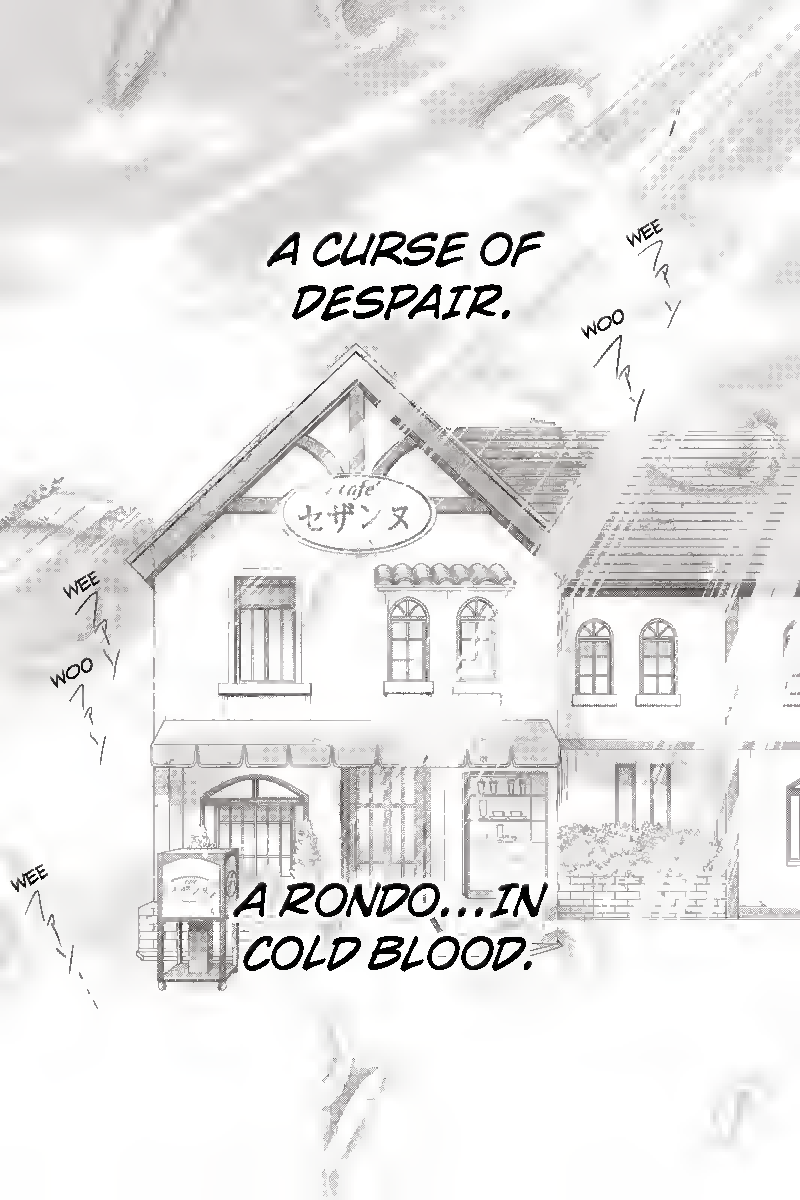

BUT EVENTUALLY NONE OF THAT MATTERED ANYMORE.
IT WAS FUN JUST BEING WITH HER.
DID SHE GIVE YOU MONEY?
SHE'D CRY IF I DIDN'T TAKE IT.
I HAVEN'T TOUCHED ANY OF THE MONEY SHE GAVE ME.
I WANTED TO GIVE HER THIS, ACTUALLY...


BUT EVEN IF I DID...
...SHE'D FORGET ABOUT IT THE NEXT DAY.
IT'S TIME.
MARIA WILL BE HERE ANY SECOND.

SHE ALWAYS ARRIVES FIVE MINUTES EARLY.
WITH THE MOST SINCERE SMILE ON HER FACE WHEN SHE SEES ME.
BUT WHEN I THINK THAT SMILE WAS MEANT FOR MY DAD...
...I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL A LITTLE IR-RITATED, Y'KNOW?
HANG ON...
SHE STILL HAS THAT UMBRELLA?

EVERYTHING IS IDENTICAL, BUT THE HANDLE, TIP AND RIBS HAVE BEEN REPLACED WITH SOFT PLASTIC.
TOUYA!
WHAT YOU SEE IS A WELL-MADE REPLICA.
SHE CAN'T KILL ANYONE WITH THAT.
IN THE END, LOVE IS BUT ANOTHER FORM OF CURSE...
BUT THERE ISN'T ANY GUARANTEE SHE WON'T ATTACK SOME-ONE AGAIN.

THE VERY SAME RONDO PERFORMED AT THE CHURCH THAT DAY.
WITH THAT, THE MUSIC BEGAN TO PLAY AGAIN IN MY HEAD ONCE AGAIN.
A BROKEN MARIA...
AN INFINITELY REPEATING REFRAIN.


A CURSE OF DESPAIR.
WEE
WOO
cafe
セザンヌ
WEE
WOO
WEE
A RONDO...IN COLD BLOOD.

Genji the Death's Friend

THEY SAY PERCEPTION VARIES GREATLY FROM PERSON TO PERSON.

FOR EXAMPLE, YOU COULD HAVE EVERYONE LOOK AT THE EXACT SAME APPLE, BUT THE WAY EACH PERSON SEES THE FRUIT IS UNIQUE TO THAT INDIVIDUAL.

BUT WHAT I SEE...IS SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT.

Death's Friend
~ Chapter Thirty ~ The Kaleidoscope Pismire ①
Translation by Adam Hirsch
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
YKS Services LLC/ SKY Japan, Inc.
MangaBox

Genji the
STORY BY AMAGI SEIMARU
ART BY MINAMI OZAKI

DOCUMENTATION

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
A WARE-HOUSE?

RIGHT THIS WAY, KAGARI-KUN
THIS IS MY ROOM.
SPARKLE
YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING WHY HE GETS THE SPECIAL TREATMENT, RIGHT?
JUMP
THIS IS OFFICER REIZEN'S EXTRATER-RITORIAL POWERS AT WORK.

SCHWING

AN EGGHEAD FOR HIS CAREER WITH A WEIRD TASTE IN COLLECTIBLES!

WEIRD? HOW RUDE.

THE BRAINSY FORMER HEAD OF THE SECOND DIVISION'S SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT, BUT WAS DEMOTED DUE TO HIS INCREDIBLY ECCENTRIC PERSONALITY!

HE IS THE UNHEARING, UNYIELDING, OVERBEARING PRINCE, MIYABI REIZEN!

HE FORCIBLY TOOK OVER THE "WAREHOUSE" THAT IS THE DOCUMENTATION DIVISION AND ADDED HIS OWN PERSONAL QUARTERS.

FELLOW DOCUMENTATION OFFICERS

SOB

SNIFF

TOLIYA TOLD ME TO EXPECT A CALL FROM THE POLICE.

JUN SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE IN THE STATION AS WELL.

TO TALK ABOUT MARIA...

BY THE WAY, MY NAME IS TAKERU CHIAKI. I USED TO BE A FIRST DIVISION INVESTIGATOR BEFORE I WAS ALSO DEMOTED!

NICE TO MEECHUU~

Y-YEAH...

He's plainly weird himself

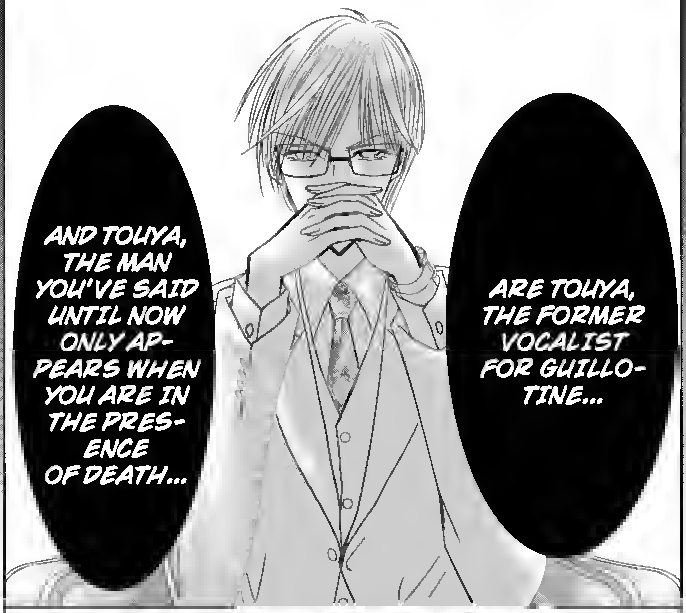
...
I TAKE IT YOU UNDERSTAND THE REASON I CALLED YOU HERE TODAY...
KAGARI-KUN?
WELL, THEN...
WE'VE ARRESTED A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN WHO FITS EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY, BUT THE UMBRELLA THAT WAS SUSPECTED AS THE MURDER WEAPON TURNED OUT TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN A HARMLESS TOY.
I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE THERE HAS BEEN A SERIES OF MURDERS IN YOUR AREA RECENTLY, CORRECT?
NO MATTER.
FURTHERMORE, THERE ARE MEDICAL RECORDS THAT STATE SHE RECENTLY AWOKE FROM A COMATOSE STATE FIRST INFLICTED THIRTY YEARS AGO DURING A HOME BURGLARY AND NOW SUFFERS FROM ANTEROGRADE AMNESIA.
BUT THE SUSPECT'S ABSENCE OF ANY MEMORY RELATING TO THE MURDERS WAS PROVEN BY DOCTORS VIA PSYCHOANALYSIS AND POLYGRAPH TESTING.
NOT ONLY DO WE LACK ANY PHYSICAL EVIDENCE PERTAINING TO THE CRIME...

This story is fictional and completely unrelated to any real people, groups and events.

A SWEEP WAS MADE OF THE SUSPECT'S HOME, HOWEVER THE UMBRELLA IN QUESTION NOR ANY OTHER WEAPON WAS DISCOVERED.
FINGERPRINTS BELONGING TO THE SUSPECT AND HER MAID AS WELL AS OLD PRINTS BELONGING TO THE SUSPECT'S FAMILY WERE FOUND.
MARIA...
THE ONLY BLOODSTAIN ON-SITE WAS DETERMINED TO BE LEFT RECENTLY DURING ONE OF THE SUSPECT'S FITS...
NOTHING ELSE OF INTEREST WAS FOUND.

MIRACULOUS, REALLY!
IT'S AS IF THE ENTIRE INTERIOR HAD BEEN SWAPPED OUT!
WELL, WITH TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY WE WOULD BE ABLE TO DETERMINE IF THAT WERE THE CASE, ANYWAY...
CLINK
カチャ
BUT LET'S SET THAT ASIDE FOR A MOMENT.
DOES "TOUYA" TRULY EXIST, KAGARI-KUN?

HUH...?
OF COURSE, TOUYA, THE FORMER VOCALIST FOR THE BAND *GUILLOTINE* INDEED EXISTS.
PICTURES, VIDEOS AND SONGS OF HIS ARE ALL ON THE INTERNET, AND DROVES OF HIS FANS HAVE ALSO SEEN HIM IN THE FLESH.
EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY AT THE LIVE HOUSE AS WELL AS YOUR CELL PHONE LOGS INDICATE YOU HAVE MET TOUYA IN THE PAST.
HOWEVER...

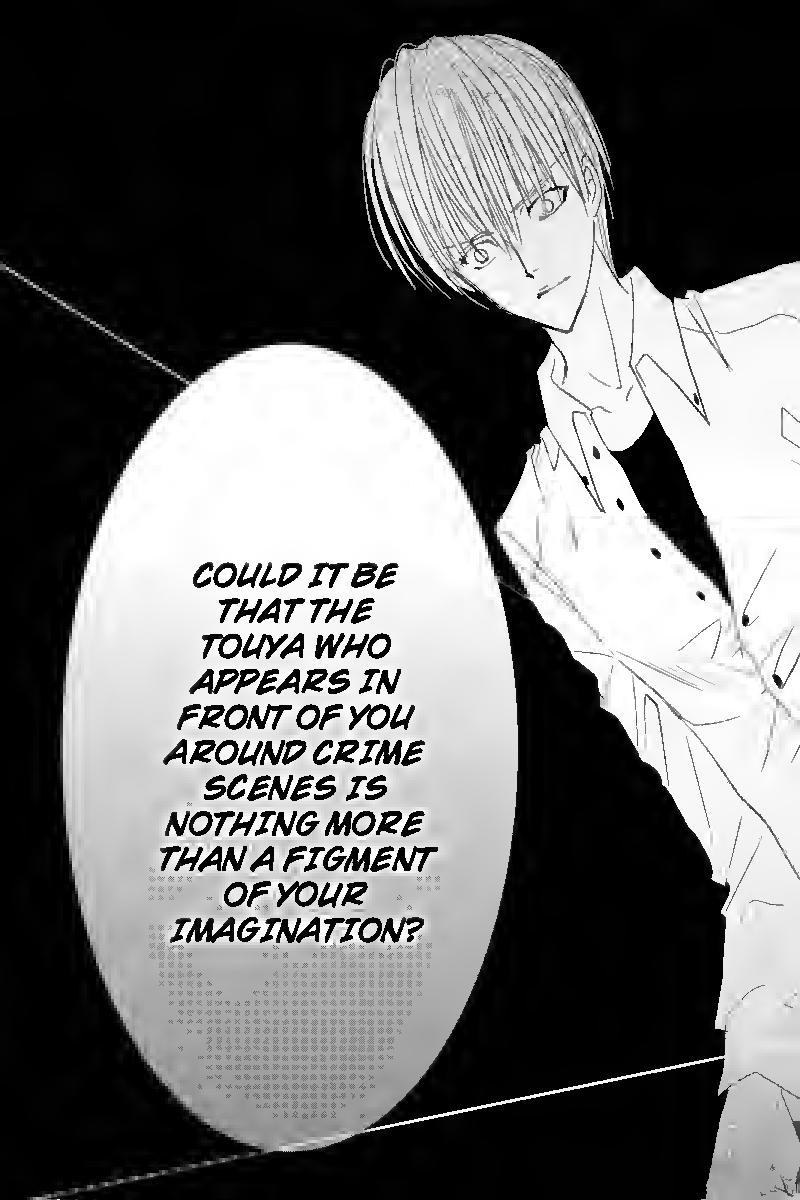

AND TOUYA, THE MAN YOU'VE SAID UNTIL NOW ONLY APPEARS WHEN YOU ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF DEATH...
ARE TOUYA, THE FORMER VOCALIST FOR GUILLOTINE...

...REALLY ONE AND THE SAME?

WH-
WHAT...?

ARE YOU AWARE THAT THE HUMAN BRAIN IS ACTUALLY QUITE VAGUE?
FOR EXAMPLE, PEOPLE ONLY SEE GHOSTS BENEATH WILLOW TREES BECAUSE THEY HAVE CONVINCED THEMSELVES THAT THEY ARE THERE.
VIA OPTICAL TRICKS AND MALFUNCTIONS OF THE BRAIN, ONE CAN BE MADE TO SEE VARIOUS PHENOMENA WHICH SHOULD NOT EXIST.
JUST AS YOU REMOVED YURI HISHIGI'S BIRTHMARK FROM YOUR PERCEPTION.
*The willow tree's associated with ghosts in Japanese folklore
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH TOUYA...?
YOU JUST SAID HE EXISTS.
HE'S RIGHT.
I...
KAGARI-KUN...
I DIDN'T SEE MARIA'S TRUE APPEARANCE, EITHER.

USING THE TOUYA FROM GUILLOTINE AS A BASE...
COULD IT BE THAT YOU'VE CREATED YOUR OWN VERSION OF TOUYA WITHIN YOURSELF?


COULD IT BE THAT THE TOUYA WHO APPEARS IN FRONT OF YOU AROUND CRIME SCENES IS NOTHING MORE THAN A FIGMENT OF YOUR IMAGINATION?

TOLIYA...?
A FIGMENT OF MY IMAGI-NATION?!